

Damascus Radio blasts U.S.

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria's state radio said in commentary Saturday that the United States has lost its prestige in the Middle East because it allowed Israel to draw up its policy in the region. The radio, which generally reflects the government's stand, said the United States appears to have regained interest in the region and "has begun a series of direct and indirect contacts with regional and international powers aimed at finding a way to resolve the conflict." The commentary moves are tantamount to an implicit recognition that the previous American moves in the area were not in harmony with the realities and developments. The radio commentary said that reviewing U.S. policy in the Middle East shows that Washington "has lost much prestige, respect and credibility since it decided to become a party to the conflict and it is now unable to assume the role of an honest mediator, a trustworthy mailman or a just arbitrator." This failure, the commentary concluded, was "because the United States placed its policy in the hands of the leaders of Israel who drew up the American policy in the Middle East according to their interests."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Iraq finds Soviet backing for its stand

BAGHDAD (AP) — Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, returning from the Soviet Union, said Saturday that Moscow supported Iraq's stand in the Gulf war. The Soviet Union, like the United States, has maintained that it is neutral in the conflict between Iran and Iraq. The Soviets are the Iraqis' main arms supplier. Mr. Ramadan, on return from the four-day visit to Moscow, said Kremlin leaders have "expressed support for Iraq's peaceful stands" which favour a negotiated settlement to the war. Mr. Ramadan told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that the Soviet Union also expressed willingness to continue efforts within the U.N. Security Council to draft a resolution aiming at ending the war. His talks in Moscow led to the signing of economic and scientific cooperation agreements between the two countries, he said, without giving further details. "We agreed on expanding the work activities of the Soviet enterprises in implementing strategic projects in Iraq," he was quoted as saying. The two countries are bound by a treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in 1972. The Soviet Union has imported Iraqi oil and dates, and provided machinery in the oil, irrigation and electricity industries.

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King sends good wishes to U.S. and Venezuela

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent cables of good wishes to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi congratulating them on the occasion of their countries' independence day. The King wished the two leaders and their respective countries and people further progress and prosperity.

Cabinet exempts tourist groups from airport tax

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. Mr. Rifai briefed the Cabinet on the results of His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Turkey and on the outcome of talks that His Majesty had with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim. During the Cabinet's regular session the Council of Ministers approved a decision that exempts tourist groups from paying visa fee and airport departure tax provided those groups consist of at least five people and spend not less than four nights in the Kingdom. The Cabinet also approved a draft law amending the law on extra university fees.

NDP nominates Mubarak for 2nd term as president

CAIRO (R) — The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) Saturday formally nominated Hosni Mubarak for a second six-year term as Egypt's president. Thousands of Mubarak's supporters demonstrated noisily outside parliament as the NDP's 345 deputies unanimously approved the nomination at a party meeting. A special session of the 448-seat parliament is scheduled for Monday evening, where Mr. Mubarak needs endorsement by a two-thirds majority to face a general referendum to elect the president on October 5. He is expected to be the sole candidate. Mr. Mubarak was elected to succeed assassinated president Anwar Sadat in 1981. He had been Sadat's vice-president. Parliament's speaker Rifaat Mahgoub said at least nine people without known political background had sought nomination for the presidency but they had been rejected for lack of parliamentary approval.

Most Americans believe Reagan is lying

WASHINGTON (R) — Most Americans believe President Reagan is lying when he says he did not know funds from secret arms sales to Iran went to rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government, according to a poll released Saturday. The poll, conducted by the Roper Organization for U.S. News and World Report magazine, said 57 per cent of those surveyed believe Mr. Reagan is lying about his knowledge of covert aid to the "contra" rebels. A similar result was reported in May by a CBS/New York Times poll.

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Waldheim ends visit reaffirming support for Mideast conference

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim returned home on Saturday at the end of a four-day state visit to Jordan, reaffirming his country's support for Jordan's proposal for convening a United Nations-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East.

In a departure statement, the former U.N. secretary general said Israel remained the main obstacle in the way of convening the proposed conference, which is favoured by most of the world community as a vehicle for Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The Austrian leader told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that it was "difficult to predict if (the conference) will be convened soon because the real problem lies in the Israeli internal division over the conference."

The Jewish state's shaky coalition government is deeply divided on the question of an international conference. The Labour Party of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in favour of the idea and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc vehemently opposed.

The Austrian president declared that based on his experi-

ence as U.N. chief he was convinced such a conference was "the only means to achieve peace and solve this problem in a just and honourable way."

He urged support for King Hussein's efforts towards peace and said any freeze in the search for Middle East peace was "most dangerous, because nothing escalates the situation of any problem more than stagnation."

"My country and me personally are going to exert all possible effort to support the King's endeavours."

Dr. Waldheim, his wife Elisabeth, and Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock and the accompanying delegation flew home from Aqaba aboard a Royal Jordanian TriStar airliner. Dr. Waldheim, who was seen off by their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, thanked his

hosts for the warm hospitality and honours accorded to him, his wife and the accompanying delegation during their stay in the Kingdom.

Dr. Waldheim told Petra his talks with the King had been successful and positive and said their views on how to achieve Middle East peace were identical. Brushing aside charges that he was involved in war crimes during his World War II service with the German army in the Balkans, the Austrian leader said he had invitations to visit several European, Latin American and Asian countries, as well as Egypt, Syria and Iraq. His press spokesman, Gerold Christian, declined to name the countries saying details would be released later.

Dr. Waldheim said he planned to visit these countries "not just to prove the falsity of what the media have been saying... but because of my duties as president."

In a Friday briefing for Austrian reporters, Dr. Waldheim said it was "just nonsense" to claim he was politically isolated because of the charges.

AP quoted Dr. Waldheim, 68, as saying he looked at his inclusion on a U.S. government "watch list" of undesirable aliens as "a temporary thing." The list bars him from entering the United

States as a private citizen.

On the Jordanian media's condemnation of the allegations, perceived as a Zionist slander campaign, the Austrian leader told Austrian reporters: "I can't tell the Jordanians what they should write about Israel. We want to have good relations with Israel also, but if the other side is not ready for it, that is not from our side."

In the departure statement he made to Petra, Dr. Waldheim said an agreement with the Jordanian side was reached on ways to increase Vienna's contribution to Jordan's development plans. He said both sides discussed ways to increase and expand economic cooperation between the two countries, and that an Austrian trade delegation would be visiting Jordan soon for further talks with officials here on ways to bolster economic relations.

"Our willingness to support Jordanian development projects stems from our conviction that the economy is a basic and important element in allowing any country to overcome its problems," Dr. Waldheim said.

Dr. Waldheim sent a cable to the King upon his departure thanking him, the government and the Jordanian people for their warm hospitality extended during his visit.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor see upon their departure from Aqaba after a four-day visit on Saturday (Petra photo)

15 wounded in bomb blast at Qalqiliya restaurant

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An unknown assailant planted a homemade bomb Saturday in a crowded restaurant at a West Bank town, wounding 15 Israeli and Palestinian customers.

An Israeli army spokesman said the army imposed a four-hour curfew on the town of Qalqiliya, and Palestinian news reports said 50 Arab suspects were arrested.

The spokesman said most of the injured suffered light to moderate wounds and were transferred to hospitals.

Also Saturday, Israeli military authorities closed for a day the Al Najah University in Nablus, the largest Palestinian university in the occupied territories, the spokesman said. He said the university was closed because of planned student demonstrations.

The army spokesman said the attack occurred at the Fares restaurant in the centre of Qalqiliya, a town 50 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem. He had no further details.

Israel Radio reported the assailant left the restaurant after treating himself to a meal and placing a paper-wrapped explosive device on the table.

The Palestine Press Service, a news agency that monitors developments in the occupied territories, said that after the explosion border police troops erected roadblocks near the town and arrested some 50 Arab suspects.

Sources quoted by Reuter said the wounded in Saturday's attack included at least one Palestinian and that the others were Jewish and Arab Israelis.

The Israeli army clamped a curfew on Qalqiliya, 27 kilometres from Tel Aviv, which was later lifted except in the vicinity of the explosion, an Israeli spokeswoman said.

Mayor Mohammad Abu Sneh strongly condemned the bombing.

The blast coincided with calls by the Shabiba youth wing of the Fatah movements for a week of protest action against Israel's

occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Qalqiliya has been a point of tension since April, when a settler from a nearby Jewish settlement was killed and several others were injured in a petrol bomb attack.

On May 5, there was another petrol bomb attack on an Israeli vehicle in the area but no one was injured.

After both incidents, armed Jewish settlers rampaged through Qalqiliya, destroying property and shouting anti-Arab slogans.

Israel Radio quoted reserve army General Rechavim Zeevi as saying the only way Israel could reach peace with the Arabs was to expel all Palestinians.

The report drew immediate criticism from both sides of parliament, with right-wing nationalist Guelia Cohen saying the time for such a move was "long past." Left-wing legislator Yossi Sarid called on defence officials to freeze any active military posting for Gen. Zeevi.

Raimond arrives today

AMMAN (I.T.) — French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond is due here today on a two-day official visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Taher Al Masri on Middle East developments and current efforts for Arab-Israeli peace as well as on bilateral relations.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Mr. Raimond, who will be accompanied by his wife and other French officials, will also meet with Jordanian government officials.

AP reported from Paris that Mr. Raimond had decided to cut short his trip to Jordan so he can return to France which is embroiled in a diplomatic dispute with Iran.

The French Foreign Ministry on Saturday announced that Mr. Raimond will return Monday night instead of the following day.

The Paris dispute surrounds an Iranian embassy employee, Wahid Gordji, wanted for questioning by a judge investigating the bombings in September that killed 11 people and injured 150 others (See story on right).

The French minister postponed a trip to Jordan last March, one day before it was scheduled to take place, due to developments involving French hostages in Lebanon.

On the eve of minister's arrival in Jordan today, Petra issued a statement noting France had been keen on maintaining strong relations with Jordan and the Arab World in general.

It said Jordan, for its part, was also keen on bolstering French-Jordanian cooperation in the general endeavour to promote the cause of peace in the Middle East.

France has voiced its support for Jordan's call for an international Middle East peace conference and reiterated its attitude during visits to France by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Petra pointed out.

It said that France had been playing a leading role within the European Community (EC) in helping to bring about an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the almost seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

In addition, France has continuously denounced Israel's practices as arbitrary and violating international conventions, Petra said.

Cairo protests Israeli plan to pump Bethlehem water

CAIRO (AP) — The Foreign Ministry summoned Israel's ambassador on Saturday to protest as a violation of international law Israeli plans to drill a well near Bethlehem and pump water to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Arab mayors in the West Bank have protested against the plan saying that such a well would exacerbate an already serious water shortage faced by Arabs in Bethlehem and nearby areas.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Egyptian protest was

given to Ambassador Moshe Sasson and that the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv has been ordered further to clarify reports of the Israeli plan.

The Israeli defence ministry has approved drilling the well southeast of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij and other West Bank leaders already have protested.

"If the Israelis go ahead with the project, they could extract all the ground water within the next few years and the Arabs... will be practically without water," Mr.

Freij has said.

Egypt's protest "strongly condemns and is very worried over news agencies' reports about an Israeli plan to drill a well near Bethlehem," said an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman.

"This is against international law, which does not allow occupying authorities to use water and natural resources in occupied territories," he said. "Egypt also is worried because this opposes all efforts being exerted to create an atmosphere suitable for reaching a settlement to the Middle East problem."

Moscow suggests removal of all non-regional warships from Gulf

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has called for the removal from Gulf waters of all warships from countries not located in the region, saying the current naval buildup in the area could spark an international crisis.

A Soviet government statement issued by the official TASS news agency accused the United States of building up its military presence in the Gulf in a bid to establish "military-political hegemony" in the region.

"The Soviet government suggests that all warships of states not situated in the region be shortly withdrawn from the Gulf, and that Iran and Iraq in their turn refrain from actions that would threaten international shipping," the statement said.

The statement implied that Soviet warships in the Gulf would be excluded from the proposed measures.

It said several Soviet warships had been sent to protect Soviet merchant vessels at the request and with the knowledge of Gulf states, adding that the Soviet Union, which borders on Iran, was located in direct proximity to the conflict.

"Pseudo-measures supposedly motivated by concern for the safety of shipping or 'ensuring stabilisation' in the Persian Gulf but in reality prompted by selfish egoistic designs are absolutely impermissible," the statement said.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced Tuesday he was overriding congressional opposition and going ahead with a plan to place 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag and provide them with U.S. naval escort.

The Soviet Union has a similar arrangement with Kuwait but said the United States was alleging a "Soviet threat" in the region because it is aiming at "estab-

U.S. silent on Soviet call

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States maintained silence on Saturday over the Soviet call for removal of all warships from the Gulf unless the vessels are from that region. No comment was forthcoming from the White House, State or Defence departments in response to queries on Saturday. One official told Reuters it was doubtful there would be any statement before Monday.

Generally, the United States was preoccupied on Saturday with fireworks, rock concerts and parades throughout the nation in celebration of U.S. Independence Day.

lishing military-political hegemony."

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. hands over flag to be used on first reflagged Kuwaiti tanker

KUWAIT (R) — A U.S. congressman on Saturday handed over an American flag for use on the first Kuwaiti oil tanker to be reflagged as American under a controversial plan to provide the ships protection against Iranian attacks.

Larry Hopkins, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, handed over the flag to Abdul Fatah Al Bader, chairman of the Kuwait Petroleum Shipping Corporation, 11 of whose 22 ships will fly the American ensign under the proposal.

Mr. Hopkins, from Kentucky, is the ranking Republican member of a 12-member team represent-

ing the house Armed Services Committee in Kuwait to discuss the plan with local leaders.

More than 300 vessels have been hit by Iraq and Iran since 1984 and Kuwait has asked the U.S. to register half its 22-tanker fleet under the American flag to provide them U.S. navy protection against Iranian attacks.

Iran has concentrated its attacks on vessels linked with Kuwait because of its support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

The U.S. team, headed by Wisconsin Democrat Les Aspin, is the third to visit Kuwait since an Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark on May 17 which

killed 37 crew. Baghdad said the attack was a mistake.

U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton was quoted Saturday by the Kuwaiti press as affirming the United States would go ahead with the reflagging.

Mr. Quainton also was quoted as saying Washington would consider requests to escort ships of other GCC member states.

He said the administration of President Ronald Reagan fully shared Kuwait's views that ensuring freedom of navigation in the international waters of the vital Gulf oil region "is the responsibility of the international community."

Fighter said to have survived sea-borne anti-Israeli attack

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — One of three commandos who set off to sea on wooden boards to attack Israel on Friday may have survived, pro-Syrian party officials said Saturday.

The Al Saiga Palestinian group and Lebanese Arab Baath Party officials told reporters the unidentified commando had escaped from Israeli-held territory but then disappeared.

Israeli-backed militiamen killed the other two commandos when they landed on a beach in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, Israeli and local press reports said.

Ahmad Assi, a Baath Party official, said the Shi'ite Amal

militia was holding the missing commando in Tyre. Amal sources said they had no knowledge of this.

The officials displayed a model of the one metre by 50 centimetre boards they said the commandos used to travel south. The boards included a compartment to carry bazookas and assault rifles.

The commandos wore frogmen's wetsuits and, lying flat on the boards, propelled themselves for several hours through the night with their hands and feet, the officials said.

They said the operation had been a success because it showed commandos could penetrate behind Israeli lines defended by

radar, gunboats and spotting devices.

The independent An Nahar newspaper said the commandos had only time to fire a few shots after landing before they were killed in a hail of fire from a position of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

"It seems they were intending to land on the Israeli coast, but lost their way and landed in the security zone," An Nahar quoted its correspondent in the zone as saying.

The party officials said the commandos intended to take Israeli hostages to swap for Arab prisoners held by Israel.

Kuwait seeks help to trace mines in Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has asked some "brotherly and friendly" countries to send minesweepers to help trace mines off its coast, a Kuwaiti government minister said in an interview published Saturday.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told the daily Al-Sayassah: "Kuwait has asked some brotherly and friendly states to send minesweepers to help search for any mines in its territorial waters."

Four merchant ships have been held by mines in a channel leading to Kuwait's oil port of Al Ahmadi since mid-May.

Regional shipping sources blame Iran for laying the mines in retaliation for Kuwait supporting Iraq in the Gulf war.

Sheikh Sabah said: "Kuwait has the right to ensure the safety of its territorial waters and to take all measures to maintain the security of its water."

He did not name the countries approached. But the U.S. State Department said last month that Saudi Arabia — which has four

anti-mine vessels — had offered help.

Shipping sources say the Soviet Union, which has leased three tankers to Kuwait to help protect the emirate's oil export lifeline, has up to three minesweepers in the Gulf.

The United States has sent a team of mine-detection experts to Kuwait.

Meanwhile Dutch shipbuilding and navy officials are in Kuwait to try to sell mine-hunting warships to the Gulf state, company and government officials said Friday.

A spokesman for the Van Der Giessen-De Noord Naval Shipyard near Rotterdam told Reuters that two company officials left for Kuwait this week, accompanied by two naval officers.

"They are holding preliminary

talks," the spokeswoman said, declining to give details.

Dutch Defence and Foreign Ministry spokesmen said the two officers went along to provide technical advice on the vessels, of a type used by the Dutch navy. The Netherlands was one of several countries in the running for an order, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The naval officers' mission was not about any Dutch involvement in securing Middle East Gulf shipping routes.

The Hague has denied a Washington Times report Thursday that Dutch vessels would help to clear Gulf shipping routes of mines.

"We have not been asked to send ships. We would consider doing so only if asked by the United Nations in case conditions worsened seriously," the spokeswoman said.

The Van Der Giessen Yard is completing orders for the Dutch and Indonesian navies and said it could start building for a new order in three to four months.

Mujahedeen releases details of 'Iranian role in kidnappings'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The main opposition group to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has said it has detailed proof that Iran's intelligence agency orders the kidnappings of Western hostages by Islamic extremists in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Ali Khamenei denied his nation was involved in the June 17 kidnapping of an American journalist in Lebanon, and accused President Reagan of implicating Iran "to achieve his aims in the Gulf."

He was referring to Mr. Reagan's plan to provide U.S. navy protection to 11 refueled Kuwaiti oil tankers against Iranian attacks in the Gulf.

The Mujahedeen, Arabic for "holy warriors," says the kidnappings in Beirut are ordered directly by the 8th Branch of Iran's Information Ministry. Although it is called the Information Ministry, parts of the organization in fact serve as the country's intelligence apparatus known as Savama, the Mujahedeen says.

The 8th Branch controls the Tehran offices of the fundamentalist Shi'ite Hezbollah organization, said an official of the Mujahedeen, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said there is no sign on the building to identify the occupants. The information on the office's activities was collected by Mujahedeen agents inside Iran, said the official.

The orders to the kidnappers are relayed from Tehran by couriers who travel to Lebanon. The Iranians do not use telephone or written messages to avoid detection by Syrian or other agents in Lebanon, said the official.

The latest such order resulted in Glass' kidnapping, the Mujahedeen says.

The director of the Tehran office, Haj Hossein Shami, was sent to Lebanon in early June for a 10-day mission, possibly to arrange the Glass abduction, the organization said.

The suspected links between Tehran and the shadowy groups claiming to have kidnapped 25 foreigners in Lebanon over the past two years have never been fully proven.

On Wednesday, NBC Television quoted U.S. officials as saying they have "conclusive evidence" that Glass' abduction was ordered by Iran.

The Hezbollah, which means Party of God, is a group of Shi'ite Muslim extremists believed to be the umbrella group for the factions that have claimed responsibility for most of the abductions. Nine Americans are among those still being held.

Algeria celebrates 25 years of independence

By Michael Goldsmith
Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Algeria prepares to celebrate its first 25 years of independence as a proud and influential leader of the Third World this weekend with unhealed wounds of its bitter colonial war with France still visible in both countries.

Hardliners on both sides still stress memories of their eight-year-long war, but many ordinary citizens have turned the page.

French activists no longer burn the Algerian flag in the streets of Paris or Marseille in frustrated rage. In Algeria, memories of the war have been fading since Algerians born since the end of French rule became a majority among the exploding population of 25 million.

Algeria's links with France, forged by 130 years of colonial rule, remain strong. Official policies aimed at destroying the "remnants of colonialism" have failed to reduce the Algerian demand for products made in France or to eliminate French words from the colloquial Arabic spoken by most Algerians.

Under the reformist government of President Chadli Benjedid, Algeria is edging away from the leftist dictatorship set up by his predecessor, Houari Boumedienne.

Veterans of the struggle against France are being retired from public life and the official "anti-imperialist" rhetoric is being toned down. Yet the war remains a centerpiece of school studies and political speeches and a political rallying cry for supporters of the one-party state.

At least 300,000 soldiers and civilians of both sides died in the eight-year conflict. Algeria's "National Liberation Army" admitted that it lost 160,000 of its guerrillas, more than 25,000 French troops and at least 75,000 civilians were killed. Algeria received its independence from France on July 5, 1962.

The conflict was often compared to the American war in Vietnam.

But the Algerian trauma reached far more deeply among

the French than the Vietnam conflict did among Americans.

For more than a century, Algeria was constitutionally an integral part of France. For the Algerians, some differences long rankled and ultimately sparked their struggle for independence. A Frenchman born in Algeria had full French nationality, while a Muslim remained a second-class citizen with limited voting and residence rights.

The war destroyed France's Fourth Republic in 1958. Then, under the Fifth Republic, hard-line French generals tried at least twice to overthrow President Charles De Gaulle. Terrorist bombs shattered Paris metro stations and reprisal victims floated in the Seine.

Despite the heritage of bitterness and some continuing political differences between the two governments, France and Algeria have forged a unique relationship. French policy in the Third World is often formulated with an eye to Algerian reaction. More than one million Algerians live in France, which remains by far Algeria's largest trading partner.

In the nationalistic euphoria of the 1962 independence celebrations, many Algerians suppressed ingrained habits like eating French bread or following French soccer results. The younger generations have no such inhibitions, and the French way of life is gaining ground again in Algeria.

An official programme of "Arabisation" was introduced with little public enthusiasm. Primary and secondary education is now mainly in Arabic, and Islamic activists try to force shopkeepers to remove signs written in French. Commands in Algeria's Soviet-equipped army are given exclusively in French. Arabic-language films have to be shown with subtitles in French.

Both countries display the cultural remnants of their common history. The elegant 19th-century buildings of downtown Algiers still make it look like a prosperous French seaport.

Most of the streets in Algerian cities were named after Frenchmen. After independence, they

were all given Arabic names and the old French street signs were painted over. Thus, Algiers' main shopping street, Rue Michelet, became Rue Didouche Mourad.

Now, 25 years later, the paint has worn off in many places and the old signs are visible again. The official street names remain Arabic, but policemen, mailmen and taxi drivers often don't know where they are.

The official media often complain that Algeria's best artists, writers and film makers prefer to work in France. The government press generally ignores the artists' explanation that they find it difficult to work under financial and cultural restraints imposed in Algeria.

Albert Camus, France's Nobel-Prize-winning philosopher and novelist, was born to a settler family in Algiers and grew up there. All his writing reflects his experience in French-ruled Algeria. It took a quarter century for independent Algeria to recognize his universal literary significance and display his works in official bookshops.

In France, memories still burn among more than 1.5 million French settlers and 500,000 pro-French Algerians who fled to the mother country. The former settlers, known as "Pieds-Noirs" (blackfeet) because of their African birthplace, retain their unmistakable Mediterranean accent and eat such traditional North African dishes as Couscous and Merguez.

In 1958, the French settlers in Algeria revolted against planned concessions to the nationalists. In the tumult, Gen. De Gaulle returned to power and established the Fifth Republic. He came to Algiers and told the settlers in a famous speech: "I understand you." Tens of thousands cheered his words.

Within days, the settlers abruptly discovered that Gen. De Gaulle's "understanding" did not imply sympathy. He embarked on a relentless pursuit of disengagement, including peace talks with the nationalists. The Pieds-Noirs felt he had betrayed them. Many who looked back on the six generations that had built

French Algeria refused to accept defeat. Activists organized the "Secret Army Organisation," waging a violent terrorist campaign against Gen. De Gaulle's authority that left 21,000 dead in France and Algeria.

After independence, the settlers fled en masse. Fewer than 5 per cent of them remained in Algeria, because they were politically committed to the Nationalists or too old to move.

With generous French compensation payments, most Pieds-Noirs moved to France where they still form a substantial body of opinion. The extreme right movement of Jean-Marie Le Pen claims to have the support of at least half of them.

Algerians living in France still are often the targets of racist slurs and physical attacks.

Algeria's government newspaper El Moudjahid has accused former French settlers of "betrayal and blindly taking revenge" for the French defeat in Algeria. With such harsh attacks on Algeria's French heritage, the nation's largest French-language newspaper often speaks for the hardliners remaining in Mr. Benjedid's administration.

Their undisputed leader is Mohammed Cherif Messaadia, chief organizer of the ruling National Liberation Front, who has been entrusted with organizing the 25th anniversary celebrations.

In the past, Algerians celebrated their National Day not on the anniversary of July 5, 1962, the day France granted independence, but of Nov. 1, 1954, when the rebellion was launched.

Mr. Messaadia, widely regarded as Mr. Benjedid's main leftist rival, is sure to reemphasize the heroism of Algeria's liberation struggle.

He can also be expected to stress Algeria's unflinching support to "anti-imperialist" causes throughout the world.

Regardless of this posture, independent Algeria has played a valuable role as mediator between Western governments and kidnappers or guerrilla leaders in Iran and Lebanon.

UNIFIL provides rich pickings for Lebanese

NAQOURA (R) — Lebanese see the 5,700 U.N. peacekeeping troops in South Lebanon not just as a force for stability, but also as a challenge to money-making skills.

On a 1.5 kilometre long strip outside their Naqoura headquarters, off-duty members of the nine-thousand U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) browse among shops offering everything from Italian shoes to Japanese stereo sets at bargain prices.

Israeli armoured troop carriers roaring past get hardly a glance from peacekeepers preoccupied with computer games, cameras and antique jewellery.

Almost 100 establishments offering smuggled luxury goods, local cuisine, laundry services, hair-cuts or photo-processing have sprung up outside UNIFIL headquarters on the Mediterranean coast four kilometres from the Israeli border.

"These guys are very ingenious," one UNIFIL staffer told Reuters. "They can get hold of whatever you want and they advertise it in Nepalese, Finnish — any language you like."

UNIFIL is made up of troops from France, Italy, Ireland, Norway, Ghana, Fiji, Nepal, Nigeria

and Sweden.

One trader said entertainment-starved UNIFIL troops bought up to half-a-million pirate cassette tapes a year. Imported from Singapore and Taiwan, the tapes cost about a dollar apiece.

Video stores display recent films like Children of a Lesser God, Platoon and Crocodile Dundee. Further back, pornographic tapes amble beside religious epics like the Ten Commandments.

All goods in the Naqoura Souq are priced in dollars for convenience, the unstable Lebanese pound has lost 88 per cent of its international value since the start of 1986.

"Business is not bad, though there is a lot of competition now," said Marwan Hayek, who sells Lebanese handicrafts, coins, stamps and antiques as well as cold drinks and sandwiches. He offers Filipino specialties. The three Filipino cook-waitresses, who previously worked in Beirut, said they could make more money in Naqoura.

Irish troops have dubbed the Souq "Mingy Street" after the "Mingy show" African traders built for an earlier generation of

U.N. peacekeepers in the Congo in the 1960s.

The row of breeze-block shops, some air-conditioned, now runs the length of the UNIFIL compound.

A newcomer who erected a shop overnight opposite the main gate of the base, had it torn down last week by indignant French troops, setting off a dispute.

Shopkeepers said the man, a local villager, demanded substantial compensation, which was refused.

UNIFIL then filled the tempting space with a wall to stop more wildcat building, so the aggrieved entrepreneur hijacked a UNIFIL vehicle and forced its occupants to walk home.

The car was recovered after contacts with the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, but for several days the French declared Mingy Street off-limits to UNIFIL personnel.

"It was terrible," one shopkeeper said. "I think together we were losing up to \$5,000 a day."

The French, much-loved by Mingy Street restaurateurs, were suffering too. When the SLA assured UNIFIL the problem was over, they swiftly lifted the boycott.

China praises Israeli Communist Party

PEKING (AP) — A senior Chinese politburo member told visiting Israeli Communist Party members on Saturday that Peking wants to expand ties with the party but opposes Israeli policy in the Middle East, an official report said.

The Chinese official, Hu Qili, said expanded ties between the two Communist parties "is not only conducive to the growth of friendship between the two parties and the two peoples but also

to safeguard world peace."

Xinhua News Agency said. Israel and China have never had diplomatic relations, and China supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Xinhua said Mr. Hu reiterated China's stance in the Middle East of condemning Israel for what China alleges is a policy of aggression and expansion. Peking has said it will not recognise Israel until it relinquishes territories captured in the 1967 Mid-

die East war.

The report said Mr. Hu praised the Israeli party for opposing the Israeli government's policy in the Middle East.

"What we oppose is the Israeli authorities' wrong policy instead of the Israeli people of different nationalities," Xinhua quoted Mr. Hu as saying.

Israeli delegation head, party General Secretary Meir Vinler, said the two parties had had "friendly talks."

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

<div>JORDAN TELEVISION</div> <div>Tel: 77111-9</div> <div>PROGRAMME ONE</div> <div>15:30 Koran</div> <div>15:45 Programme Review</div> <div>15:55 Children's programmes</div> <div>17:30 Give Me a Hand</div> <div>17:50 Local Agricultural programme</div> <div>18:20 Arabic series</div> <div>19:30 Local programme</div> <div>19:50 Programme review</div> <div>20:10 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:30 Arabic series</div> <div>21:20 Local legal debate</div> <div>22:00 Tomorrow's programmes</div> <div>22:15 T.V. Magazine (12)</div> <div>23:00 News Summary in Arabic</div> <div>23:10 Magazine contd.</div> <div>PROGRAMME TWO</div> <div>16:00 Tennis</div> <div>19:00 News in French</div> <div>19:15</div> <div>French educational documentary</div> <div>19:30 News in Hebrew</div> <div>19:45 Varieties</div> <div>20:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:30 Growing pains</div> <div>21:00 Critiques (1st part)</div> <div>22:00 News in English</div> <div>22:20 Hunter (drama)</div> <div>23:10 Comedy</div> <div>RADIO JORDAN</div> <div>855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM</div> <div>& partly on 92.4 KHz. SW</div> <div>Tel: 77111-19</div> <div>07:00 Light Music</div> <div>07:30 Newsweek</div> <div>08:00 Morning Show</div> <div>10:00 News Summary</div> <div>11:05 In Concert</div> <div>12:00 News Summary</div> <div>12:05 Pop Talk</div> <div>13:00 News Summary</div> <div>13:10 Pop Session contd.</div> <div>14:10 News Summary</div> <div>14:30 Instrumentals</div> <div>14:50 Science Report</div> <div>15:00 Concert Hour</div> <div>16:00 News Summary</div> <div>16:05 Instrumentals</div> <div>16:30 Old Favourites</div> <div>17:00 Listener's Choice</div> <div>18:00 News Summary</div> <div>18:05 Jazz Hour</div> <div>19:00 Newsweek</div> <div>19:30 Date with a Star</div>	<div>20:00 Evening Show</div> <div>21:00 News Summary</div> <div>21:05 Evening Show continued</div> <div>21:55 News Summary</div> <div>22:00 Evening Show continued</div> <div>22:05 News Summary</div> <div>23:07 News Headline</div> <div>24:00 Close Down</div> <div>BBC WORLD SERVICE</div> <div>629, 720, 1223 KHz</div> <div>07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Gershwin</div> <div>07:50 Financial Review 08:00 World</div> <div>08:05 News 08:30 24 Hours News Summary</div> <div>08:30 Contable 08:45 Letter from</div> <div>08:45 America 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Chorus</div> <div>09:30 of Britain 10:00 World News 10:09 24</div> <div>10:09 Hours News Summary 10:30 From</div> <div>10:30 Our Own Correspondent 10:45 Sports</div> <div>10:45 world 10:50 Watchdog 10:50 World</div> <div>10:50 News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 The Plea-</div> <div>11:15 sure's Yours 12:00 World News 12:09</div> <div>12:09 British Press Review 12:15 Through</div> <div>12:15 My Window 12:45 Keep to the Path</div> <div>13:00 13:00 News Summary: Short Story</div> <div>13:00 Goethe Institute 13:30</div> <div>13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News</div> <div>14:00 14:09 News About Britain 14:15 From</div> <div>14:15 Our Own Correspondent 14:30 Orches-</div> <div>14:30 tra of the World 15:00 News Sum-</div> <div>15:00 mary: Evening News: Known</div> <div>15:00 (Part 1) 15:15 Prompt 15:30 Play of the</div> <div>15:30 Week: Intimate Exchanges 16:00</div> <div>16:00 World News 16:09 Sportsworld 16:09</div> <div>16:09 News Summary 16:15 Sportsworld</div> <div>16:15 19:00 News Summary 19:09 Sports-</div> <div>19:09 world Cont. 20:00 World News 20:09</div> <div>20:09 Reflections 20:45 Sports Roundup</div> <div>21:00 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Brain of Britain</div> <div>21:30 1987 22:00 News Summary: Classical</div> <div>22:00 Record Review 22:15 Desert Island</div> <div>22:15 Discs 24:00 Sportsworld 01:09 Islands</div> <div>01:09 of Hope and Glory 02:15 Letter from</div> <div>02:15 America 02:30 Forecasting the Future</div> <div>VOICE OF AMERICA</div> <div>MW 1200 & SW 720, 9265, 1174,</div> <div>11925 and 15210 KHz</div> <div>06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00</div> <div>07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News</div> <div>08:10 08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10</div> <div>09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 News</div> <div>10:10 Horizons 18:30 Studio One 19:00 News</div> <div>19:10 19:10 Enquirer 19:30 Special English</div> <div>19:30 News & Features 20:00 News 20:10</div> <div>20:10 Studio One 20:30 Issues in the</div> <div>20:30 News 21:00 News 21:10 Enquirer</div> <div>21:10 21:30 Special English News & Features</div> <div>21:30 22:00 News 22:10 Sunday Report 22:30</div> <div>22:30 Music, USA Standards 23:00 News &</div> <div>23:00 Editorial 23:10 The Concert Hall 24:00</div> <div>24:00 News 24:10 News Horizons 24:30 Studio</div> <div>24:30 One</div>	<div>TODAY'S EVENTS</div> <div>* An art exhibition by Omar Brouat at the Housing Bank Centre's gallery (until July 18).</div> <div>* French archaeological exhibition at French Cultural Centre runs through July 9.</div> <div>* An exhibition of paintings by Janet Shami at the Petra Bank Gallery (until July 9).</div> <div>EXHIBITIONS</div> <div>* An art exhibition by Omar Brouat at the Housing Bank Centre's gallery (until July 18).</div> <div>* French archaeological exhibition at French Cultural Centre runs through July 9.</div> <div>* An exhibition of paintings by Janet Shami at the Petra Bank Gallery (until July 9).</div> <div>SERVICE CLUBS</div> <div>Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.</div> <div>Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Ammon Hotel, 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.</div> <div>Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.</div> <div>Royal Automobile Club, Jabbal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 816534, 817534.</div> <div>CULTURAL CENTRES</div> <div>Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267</div> <div>American Centre .. 644371</div> <div>British Council .. 631478</div> <div>French Cultural Centre .. 637009</div> <div>Goethe Institute .. 641993</div> <div>Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642403</div> <div>Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049</div> <div>Turkish Cultural Centre .. 629777</div> <div>Haya Arts Centre .. 665195</div> <div>Haya Youth Centre .. 6671816</div> <div>Y.W.C.A. .. 641793</div> <div>Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251</div> <div>Amman Municipal Library .. 671111</div> <div>Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555</div> <div>CHURCHES</div> <div>St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.</div> <div>Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luweldid, Tel. 637440.</div> <div>De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, Tel. 661757.</div> <div>Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luweldid, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623366.</div> <div>Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.</div> <div>Anglican Church (Church of the Resurrection) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 625383.</div> <div>Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 713131.</div> <div>Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 715261.</div> <div>St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 717151.</div> <div>Amman International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.</div> <div>Evangelical Lutheran Church, Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7:00 p.m. Rainbow Congregation, English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Rev. N. Smir, Tel. 811295.</div> <div>MUSEUMS</div> <div>"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.</div> <div>Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also a collection from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Year-round, Tel. 651760.</div> <div>Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qaf (Chadid Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.</div> <div>Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists, Muntazah, Jabbal Luweldid. Opening hours:</div>	<div>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</div> <div>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 520453, where it should always be verified.</div> <div>ARRIVALS</div> <div>ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</div> <div>10:15 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>10:15 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>10:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>10:40 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>10:40 Jeddah (RJ)</div> <div>10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)</div> <div>11:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)</div> <div>11:00 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)</div> <div>11:25 London (RJ)</div> <div>11:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>11:30 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)</div> <div>11:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)</div> <div>11:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)</div> <div>11:55 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)</div> <div>12:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)</div> <div>12:35 Paris, Geneva (RJ)</div> <div>12:40 Tunis (add.) (RJ)</div> <div>12:55 Baghdad (RJ)</div> <div>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</div> <div>09:55 Berlin, Larnaca (IF)</div> <div>12:45 Kuwait (LN)</div> <div>13:20 Cairo (MS)</div> <div>13:30 Jeddah (SV)</div> <div>13:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)</div> <div>13:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)</div> <div>14:35 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>15:00 Dubai (EK)</div> <div>17:30 Baghdad (IA)</div> <div>17:35 Athens (OA)</div> <div>19:10 Frankfurt (LB)</div> <div>06:45 London, Cairo (IA)</div> <div>DEPARTURES</div> <div>ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</div> <div>08:00 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>12:40 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)</div> <div>12:40 Vienna, New York (RJ)</div> <div>12:50 Vienna, New York (add.) (RJ)</div> <div>13:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>20:35 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>20:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)</div> <div>20:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)</div> <div>20:55 Baghdad (RJ)</div> <div>21:00 Larnaca (RJ)</div> <div>21:15 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>22:15 Damascus (RJ)</div> <div>22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)</div> <div>23:00 Bangkok (RJ)</div> <div>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</div> <div>06:20 Frankfurt (LF)</div> <div>09:30 Beirut (ME)</div> <div>09:30 Rome (AZ)</div> <div>11:10 Larnaca, Berlin (IF)</div> <div>14:00 Tripoli (LN)</div> <div>14:05 Cairo (MS)</div> <div>15:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)</div> <div>15:00 Jeddah (SV)</div> <div>15:00 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>16:00 Dubai (EK)</div> <div>18:20 Athens (OA)</div> <div>18:30 Baghdad (IA)</div> <div>20:00 Sana'a (IA)</div> <div>MONEY EXCHANGE</div> <div>Saturday rates</div> <div>Local sell/buy rates in Sls</div> <div>Belgian franc 89.9 / 90.7</div> <div>Dutch guilder 164.8 / 166.2</div> <div>French franc 55.7 / 56.1</div> <div>Italian lire 231.7 / 231.7</div> <div>Japanese yen (for 100) 23.7 / 23.7</div> <div>Swedish crown 53.4 / 53.5</div> <div>Swiss franc 223.3 / 229.5</div> <div>U.K. sterling pound 549 / 555.2</div> <div>U.S. dollar 341.5 / 344.2</div> <div>W. German mark 185.3 / 187.4</div> <div>PRAYER TIMES</div> <div>03:56 Fajr</div> <div>05:42 Sunrise</div> <div>05:42 Dhuh</div> <div>16:21 Asr</div> <div>19:48 Maghreb</div> <div>21:24 Isha</div> <div>WEATHER</div> <div>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</div> <div>A drop in temperature is expected, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.</div> <div>Min./max. temp.</div> <div>Amman 18 / 32</div> <div>Agaba 25 / 39</div> <div>Deserts 21 / 38</div> <div>Jordan Valley 22 / 37</div> <div>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Agaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent. Agaba 20 per cent.</div>	<div>EMERGENCIES</div> <div>Amman governorate 891228</div> <div>Amman Civil Defence 198, 199</div> <div>Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131</div> <div>Civil Defence Uweishneh 770753</div> <div>Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306</div> <div>Amman ambulance 198, 771111</div> <div>Amman downtown fire brigade 198</div> <div>First aid 630341</div> <div>Blood Bank 778503</div> <div>Civil Defence rescue 611111</div> <div>Fire headquarters 623093</div> <div>Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777</div> <div>Police headquarters 639141</div> <div>Traffic police 8953001</div> <div>Electric Power Co. (63583) 63583</div> <div>Municipal water complaints 771128</div> <div>Queen Alia Intl. Airport (08) 5330360</div> <div>GENERAL</div> <div>Jordan Television 7731119</div> <div>Radio Jordan 7731119</div> <div>Ministry of Tourism 642511</div> <div>Hotel complaints 666412</div> <div>Price complaints 661176</div> <div>Jordan and Middle East information 12</div> <div>Overseas calls East calls 10</div> <div>Repair service 11</div> <div>NIGHT DUTY</div> <div>AMMAN:</div> <div>Dr. Jamil Marwaf 771649</div> <div>Dr. Munir Darwaf 782352</div> <div>Dr. Atef Dabbas 665884</div> <div>Dr. Saïd Tannous 894954</div> <div>AI Saloun pharmacy 636730</div> <div>Al-Nesrah Pharmacy 722672</div> <div>First pharmacy 731267</div> <div>Hinnawi pharmacy 645750</div> <div>Khalaf pharmacy 778653</div> <div>Al Farouk pharmacy 668643</div> <div>Al Sebbeh pharmacy 668056</div> <div>TAXIS:</div> <div>Al Ahram taxi 663911</div> <div>Venecia taxi 644585</div> <div>Meshtine taxi 671473</div> <div>Shmeisani taxi 665294</div> <div>Mehyar taxi 644574</div> <div>Khayyam taxi 641577</div> <div>Jordan taxi 623050</div> <div>Asem taxi 844503</div> <div>IRBID:</div> <div>Dr. Lutfi Shebli 241798</div> <div>ZARQA:</div> <div>Dr. Salah Safirini 087565</div> <div>MARKET PRICES</div> <div>Upper/lower price in fils per kg.</div> <div>Apple (Larnaca & Turkish) 300 / 250</div> <div>Apple 70 / 50</div> <div>Apricot 150 / 100</div> <div>Onion (dry) 90 / 50</div> <div>Orange (lokal) 150 / 100</div> <div>Okra 450 / 400</div> <div>Pepper (hot) 200 / 160</div> <div>Pepper (sweet) 700 / 600</div> <div>Pumpkin 200 / 140</div> <div>Radish 150 / 100</div> <div>Sweetcorn 200 / 150</div> <div>Tomatoes 150 / 100</div> <div>Vine 300 / 200</div> <div>Watercress 500 / 400</div>
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cooperative society head visits Britain

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Murewid Al Tal, director general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation left for London Saturday on a week-long visit to the United Kingdom. During the visit, Mr. Tal will familiarise himself with the work of British cooperative societies and their activities. He will also hold talks with British officials on the prospects of British contribution towards the development of Jordanian cooperatives.

VTC chief returns from int'l panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Munther Al Masri returned to Amman Saturday after participating in an international conference on vocational training held in East Berlin. The ten-day conference discussed modern trends in vocational training, the effect of education on development, international cooperation in promoting development, and technology employed in technical and vocational training. Dr. Masri said. He said that he presented a number of working papers featuring Jordan's experience in vocational training. Delegates from 64 nations took part in the conference which ended last week.

Registration ends for Parliament seat

AMMAN (J.T.) — Registration of candidates for the vacant Parliament seat for the Bethlehem constituency ended Saturday. The seat became vacant following the death in January of Bethlehem deputy, Hanna Bannourah. Lower House of Parliament sources said that the voting for a new deputy will take place during the Lower House session on Tuesday. At least eight candidates have privately declared their intention to contest the seat.

'Dental Day' to be held in W. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) is organising a "Dental Day" in the occupied West Bank on July 24, in cooperation with the JDA's branch in the occupied territory. A JDA spokesman said that the event include lectures on dental surgery and other matters related to the dental profession. Dr. Walid Maraqa, JDA president, will be among the dentists to take part in the event. The JDA, the spokesman said, has so far set up 14 dental clinics in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, offering dental services free of charge.

Jordan to take part in education panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting for under secretaries of Arab ministries of education scheduled to be held in Tunis on July 11. During their three-day meeting, participants will study and evaluate Arab educational systems and their suitability for new developments in the Arab community. Ministry of Education Secretary General Dr. Rami Al Waqfi will head Jordan's delegation to the meetings.

Archives department to hold book show

AMMAN (Petra) — Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) will hold a book exhibition on the sidelines of the Jerash Festival activities. The exhibition will include selections of rare pictures and documents which highlight the life of His Majesty King Hussein, in addition to a number of speeches and addresses he delivered on several national, pan-Arab and international occasions.

PSD scraps plans for bridge registration centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Plans for opening two centres in Amman and Zarqa for the registration of travellers to the Israeli-occupied territories to organise the flow of traffic across the River Jordan bridges have been scrapped. All travellers will now have to go to the bridge terminals for this process, according to an announcement Saturday by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The announcement said that the new procedure, which will take effect today, requires travellers to go to the terminals and reserve a place for travelling on the following day by presenting documents, passports and other required identification papers.

This procedure is required for travellers across either bridge. Travellers need not take other members of the family for the registration process, but can take their documents and passports, the announcement said.

Earlier, the PSD had announced that it was opening two centres in Amman and Zarqa for the registration of travellers across Prince Mohammad Bridge. The two centres were planned to start operations Saturday.

The children aged 10-13 are scheduled Sunday to visit the regional office of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and will be received in the evening in an audience with Her Majesty Queen Noor who originally initiated the annual affair in Jordan.

They later went to the Irbid

\$1.47b project to exploit Dead Sea minerals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Industrial Consortium Engineering Company (JICECO) is negotiating with foreign consultants for work on a large industrial complex, according to the Middle East Economic Digest. The scheme, which is estimated at JD 500 million (\$1,470 million), aims to exploit the Dead Sea's mineral resources and to diversify production at Arab Potash Company's (APC) nearby plant.

JICECO hopes to appoint at least five consultants in the next two months to study elements of the project, President Omar Abdullah Dokkhan says. They will work with JICECO, which was set up in 1986 as a specialist industrial consultant. Company partners are the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Pension Fund, Social Security Corporation, Jordan

Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and APC. Its main work is project development and supervision for APC and JPMC. The new complex could exploit oil sands — found in good quantities near the Dead Sea — as a cheap energy source, and process now-wasted potash byproducts into a range of industrial materials, Dokkhan says. Other raw materials needed are all available locally; only petrochemicals would need to be imported.

JICECO has already prepared a masterplan for the complex, and Dokkhan is optimistic that construction could start in three years, for completion over 10. He says the scheme will be economically feasible if the series of plants envisaged is designed and run as an integrated complex. No arrangements have yet been made to finance the scheme.

Jordan marks decisive Battle of Hittin

AMMAN (J.T.) — The eighth centenary anniversary of the Battle of Hittin fell on Saturday, and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs organised a major celebration at the Palace of Culture in Al Hussein Youth City to mark the occasion.

The battle which pitted the forces of Muslim leader Saladdin and the Crusaders ended a decisive defeat for the Crusaders in the area of Hittin in north Palestine.

At the celebration, held under the royal patronage, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, delivered a speech outlining the major heroic feats of the Muslim leaders and their men in the historic battle which eventually led to the final eviction of the Crusaders from Palestine and other parts of the Arab land.

The minister said that prior to the Hittin battle, the Arab nation was deeply divided, but the leadership of Saladdin and the need to defend the land brought about unity among the Arabs, which was essential for winning the battle.

In his speech, the minister reviewed the circumstances leading to the battle and likened the situation that prevailed in the Arab region to that which currently characterises the Arab states.

He said that the Arab World is now plagued with the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine, the Iran-Iraq war, the civil strife in Lebanon, and the divisions within the Arab and Islamic community, which, he said, has led to

the weakness of the Arab and Muslim nations.

The Hittin anniversary is therefore a reminder for the Muslim, and Arab nations to unify their ranks and regain their rights, the minister noted.

He said that the Arabs and Muslims should take lessons from history and work for a victory over their common enemies.

At the celebration, a representative of the Jordanian Armed Forces gave a briefing on the military strategy adopted by Saladdin and his army commanders and also on his endeavours that succeeded in unifying the Arab and Muslim states at the time, an important factor that assured the final victory.

The celebration was attended by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan, several Parliament members, Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin and other officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

On this occasion, the Ministry of Communications announced that it has issued postage stamps of the 60, 80 and 100 fils denominations. The ministry said that the issue was designed as a way of commemorating the great battle.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat delivers a speech to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the victorious Battle of Hittin in which the Arab forces under the command of Saladdin defeated the Crusaders. In the speech, delivered at the Palace of

Culture in the Al Hussein Youth City on Saturday, the minister stressed the role unity played in bringing about the victory and the need for unity to confront the many challenges facing the Arab World today (Petra photo)

Industrial fair visitors top 10,000 mark

TUNIS (Petra) — More than 10,000 people have so far visited the Jordanian Industrial Fair which was opened in Tunis on Wednesday, according to Jordanian officials supervising the affair.

They said that the number of visitors were increasing daily, and that they are purchasing different items.

Mr. Ghazi Diab, director of the Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation, said that the fair, the

second of its kind in Tunis, was in implementation of a bilateral agreement and designed to orient Tunisians on the different Jordanian products.

Seventy-five Jordanian businesses and organisations are taking part in the fair and displaying items ranging from pharmaceuticals to refrigerators and other electrical appliances.

Also on display are samples of phosphates and potash which is produced in Jordan.

Marking of school exams ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education-appointed teams, who have been assigned to mark the tawjihi and school secondary stage admission examinations, completed their work and are now involved in sorting out the papers for the final results.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Education said that it will take at least 20 more days for the results to come out in view of the large number of students taking the examination last month.

A total of 111,624 students in various parts of the East Bank took the examinations, of whom 60,500 were tawjihi students, the spokesman noted.

Normally the Ministry, of

Education publishes the results before Jordanian universities and community colleges open their doors for applications to enrol.

According to the spokesman, ministry-appointed teams in the occupied West Bank have not finished their work.

Once the marking of papers is completed, the spokesman added, the different marks will feed into computers before the final results can be known.

Students who completed the preparatory stage sat for the secondary stage admission examination while the tawjihi students had completed the final stage of the secondary school.

New techniques make desert bloom

By John Rice
The Associated Press

MUWAQQAR — Rain is sparse here, and the little that falls usually pounds off the hard soil and floods down rocky gullies into the vast desert beyond.

In most parts of the world, this barren terrain 20 miles (30 kilometres) southeast of Amman would pass for desert. In water-starved Jordan, researchers consider it potential farmland.

Agricultural scientists, aided by a grant from the European Community, have turned a 200-hectare (490-acre) site into an experimental farm for cereal grains, fruit trees and forage.

If they succeed, "we would make a revolution in agriculture in Jordan," said Theodor Oweis, an irrigation specialist from the University of Jordan.

Thirty per cent of Jordan's land, like the soil around Muwaqqar, receives between 100 and 200 millimetres (4 to 8 inches) of rain a year. Virtually none of it is now used for crops.

"One fourth of that land would be a lot more than all the land irrigated in Jordan," Oweis said. Even much less would be a crucial improvement for arid Jordan, which spends badly needed foreign currency to import about 80 per cent of its wheat and barley, 70 per cent of its peas and beans and much of its meat each year.

To harness wasted floodwaters, the researchers have built three small, cheap dams in a shallow gully that drains some 30 square

kilometres (12 square miles). The earthen dams, which cost JD 2,000 (\$6,000) to build, hold 60,000 cubic metres (15.8 million U.S. gallons or 13.2 million imperial gallons) of water.

Oweis said it would cost JD 30,000 (\$90,000) to buy that much even if pipes were available.

He said the researchers expect four or five storms a year to fill the dams.

A portable diesel pump feeds water to sprinklers which tosses the water over green shoots of wheat and barley. They are being watered at different rates and nourished with different fertilizers to determine which work best.

Sheets of plastic and wax guide rainfall to individual almond trees, chosen because they are resistant to drought.

Low rock barriers block a nearby wash to slow the water flow and hold moisture for plants behind them.

Imported forage crops are being tested in dry ground against local varieties to see which will best survive to nourish grazing sheep.

The methods are generally simple and cheap, the sort of things a desert farmer might be able to afford and build.

Students working at the site said the sprinklers amazed local tribesmen, who came to inquire if the government had extended water lines to the area, and to ask if land nearby was for sale.

"We're not going to drill any wells," Oweis said. "The ground

water is already planned for in Jordan."

He noted that Jordan has no rivers other than a few at the western margins of its territory.

Bedouins have grazed their sheep and goats in the arid lands beyond the western highlands for thousands of years, and overgrazing has denuded the land, allowing the desert to encroach, said Awni Tameh, the project's technical director.

The land on which the project is being conducted was so poor that the Armed Forces used it for infantry and artillery training until turning it over to the university.

The boom of artillery fire from over the hill interrupted researchers as they displayed their work.

About half the funding for the first three years of the project comes from a 750,000 European Currency Unit (\$872,000) grant under a "Fight against Hunger" programme aimed at increasing self-sufficiency in poorer countries.

"This is a major factor in the country's development ... and in stability," said Romano Lantini, the European Community representative in Amman.

He conceded that some European farmers "might be disturbed by the concept" of encouraging other countries to grow crops rather than import them from Europe.

"But, 'in the long run, the world's resources are not enough," he added.

Caritas group holds talks on new projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of Caritas France comprising Mr. Luc Trouillet and Mrs. Jacqueline Huber held talks in Amman with officials on projects undertaken by Caritas International in the Kingdom.

They met with the under secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Mohammad Wardan, with whom they discussed topics related to rehabilitation of the handicapped and starting a kindergarten in rural regions of Jordan.

The two Caritas visitors also held extensive meetings with Jordanian journalists and made visits to Caritas Jordan projects and welfare centres in Amman and other areas.

Caritas International last month approved projects worth JD 150,000 to be implemented in Jordan, according to Father Mousa Adel, director of Caritas Jordan.

"This is a major factor in the country's development ... and in stability," said Romano Lantini, the European Community representative in Amman.

He conceded that some European farmers "might be disturbed by the concept" of encouraging other countries to grow crops rather than import them from Europe.

"But, 'in the long run, the world's resources are not enough," he added.

Students learn, have fun in summer programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thousands of students embarked Saturday on a summer recreational and cultural programme organised by the Ministry of Education in different regions of the Kingdom.

A ministry spokesman said that the male and female students of the primary, preparatory and secondary stages participating in the four-week programme, will attend classes on typing, sewing, vocational training, as well as

lessons on traditional subjects, and will also hear lectures and take part in sports.

It said that five such centres were opened in Madaba district in which nearly 600 students are taking part. In south Shuneh district students gathered at three schools for their summer activities.

In Salt Governorate, five different centres have been opened for these activities.

Committee prepares for physicians' panel in Rome

AMMAN (Petra) — The preparatory committee for a conference of gynaecologists and obstetricians from Arab countries and Italy, to be held in Rome next May, began its meetings here Saturday at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Medicine.

The university vice-president,

Marwan Kamal, said that the university seeks to build bridges of scientific cooperation with various institutions in the world.

Dr. Kamal added that the university was very keen on making this conference a success to highlight scientific advancement in the Arab World.



COMBATING DRUGS: A training course opened at the Police Academy in Amman on Saturday for police officers specialising in the combat against drug trafficking. Colonel Mohammad Basour, the academy's commander, made a speech urging the officers to acquire expertise to help counter drug trafficking operations and curtail drug-related crimes which he said have adverse effects on the social and economic life of the country. Several senior police officers attended the opening session (Petra photo).

Janet Shami's art reflects hand, mind of royal mentor

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A week-long exhibition of the work of Janet Shami opened at the Petra Bank Art Gallery on Thursday. The 42 oil and China ink paintings, which range from the abstract to the figurative, are the culmination of many years work, work which has been guided by the internationally acclaimed artist Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid.

The deep influence of the Princess can be seen to varying extents in all Mrs. Shami's work, but never more so than in her "Homage to Fahrelnissa." This black and white China ink of a large tree with its winter branches intertwining endlessly over a small town square is almost a direct copy of one the Princess made back in the 1940's.

Intricately detailed like that of the Princess, it served as an exercise that restored Mrs. Shami's confidence in her abilities as an artist after a break of several years. It is from this work that the present exhibition stems.

For many, the most appealing of Mrs. Shami's works will no doubt be the very naive figurative oils which capture, with a disarming simplicity, aspects of the rural, the traditional way of life of Jordan. These paintings, especially those like "A song to the New Born" and "End of a Working Day" seem to begin like an old fairy tale, "Once upon a



Janet Shami's "entropy"

time... Full of the charming detail so characteristic of naive work, Mrs. Shami imbues the faces of her figures with calm but inscrutable expressions that hint at hidden passions, at sadness and fatigue, at solidarity and warmth.

The soft folds of fabric, whether it is that of the tents or of

the canvas sides of the truck or the dress of both men and women, create elaborate rhythms within the picture while at the same time acting as compositional dividers.

This is particularly effective in "Warmth" where the bodies of the women are simply pieces of flimsy floating fabric that some-

how manage to prop themselves up by leaning heavily on each other. Thus united, they stand, divided they fall: a visual maxim that tells of the strength of the extended family, the tribe.

Although the colours are just as bright and bold in the China inks, the more delicate brush-

work, seen especially in pieces like "Waiting," gives them, as Mrs. Shami intended, a feeling of Turkish miniature work. This fineness is carried successfully over into her abstracts in the same medium where hovering background colours are covered with dotted snake like lines that weave their way over the surface of the picture. In paintings like "Madaba," this technique is striking and totally effective, yet when the same idea is carried over into Mrs. Shami's oils it does not work so well.

Much better, and in fact among the most remarkable and inspired pieces in the exhibition are Mrs. Shami's beautifully bright and wild abstracts like "Entropy" where long tongues of yellow, red and orange flames, like explosions on the sun, lick forever upwards, lighting the blue and green darkness of a country night, and like its opposite "Soul Drain," where a rain of turquoise, blues and yellows pours endlessly down.

Finally there is Mrs. Shami's single etching. Indicating an understanding of developing shapes and forms to produce immensely satisfying designs, this small deeply shaded piece with its barely emerging seated figures enfolded in the curves of the clothes is one of the most successful pieces in the show and perhaps a line Mrs. Shami, while not neglecting her other work, should pursue.

Moscow suggests removal of warships

(Continued from page 1)

The statement did not make clear whether the Soviet Union was offering to withdraw its warships.

Iran on Saturday welcomed the Soviet call.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Larjani met Soviet Ambassador Vil Bol-dyrev in Tehran and said Iran welcomed Moscow's stand, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported.

In its statement Friday night, the Soviet government also called on Iran and Iraq to refrain from action that would threaten international shipping.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Vernon Walters said Saturday that the international organisation could, for the first time in its history, end the war between Iran and Iraq — two member nations.

Speaking to reporters at a fourth of July picnic at the U.S.

embassy before leaving Moscow for China, General Walters said there is strong support among the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council for a binding resolution demanding a halt in the Gulf fighting.

Gen. Walters, who has been in the Soviet Union all week meeting with senior officials to rally support for the resolution, said he would discuss the issue with the Chinese officials in Peking.

He said that in contrast to earlier U.N. resolutions, which repeatedly have called for settlement of the Iran-Iraq war and other international disputes, the new draft resolution would empower the U.N. secretary-general to order the combatants to cease firing. As members of the international organisation, Iran and Iraq would be obliged to comply, Gen. Walters said.

In the past, the Security Council has been unable to order a halt in hostilities because one or more of the five permanent member

nations — the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union — would veto such a resolution, he said.

This time, Gen. Walters said, all five support a tougher approach.

The ambassador acknowledged, however, that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would have to get approval from the Security Council before imposing an arms embargo or other enforcement action if Iran or Iraq failed to comply with the ceasefire.

Gen. Walters told journalists at a U.S. embassy reception on Friday that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz planned to sign the Security Council's resolution at the United Nations on July 14 or 15.

But he could not say whether Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would travel to New York on a visit which could also include arms control talks with Mr. Shultz.

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On the right track

AS we welcome wholeheartedly the new overtures from Western capitals towards Damascus, we pause to express appreciation of the series of initiatives, contacts and decisions which have led to the positive developments in Western-Syrian relations. There is no doubt that there has been a multitude of actions which have culminated, first, in ending the U.S. ban on high-level talks and contacts with Damascus and then in moves by other European capitals towards patching up differences with Syria.

To be sure, there were changes of attitudes on both sides of the fence. While Damascus took a series of decisions commencing with a more determined effort to help ease the hostage issue in Lebanon and closing down the offices of the notorious Abu Nidal group, the Western capitals, likewise, began a process of changing their respective attitudes towards dealing with the Syrian government. And as the chemistry of the concurrent and corresponding actions and reactions began to take shape, a positive interaction has followed, promising to bring to fruition successful results for the high-level contacts between the Western capitals on one hand and Damascus on the other.

In this context, one can hardly overlook the role played by His Majesty King Hussein who took it upon himself to make clear the necessity of understanding and cooperation among all parties concerned with the situation. Jordan, of course, does not feel that whatever has been accomplished so far is enough to bring peace and stability to this troubled part of the world. But, His Majesty's relentless efforts at lessening tensions and constructing bridges of understanding, among not only Arabs and the international community, but also among the big powers and the Arab states themselves, have put us on the right track towards our goals.

These efforts are likely to continue and go from strength to strength with each indication of positive change. This is not to say, however, that Jordan alone can achieve political miracles in weeks and months. It takes the mutual interest and good will of everybody concerned to do their part in order to stop the wars, the bloodshed and the suffering of the peoples of the area.

Much has still to be done before peace and stability can return to Palestine and the Gulf and other parts of the Middle East. But at least the signs are there that something positive is happening whether in U.N. corridors or through bilateral contacts in various capitals of the world. We keep our hands crossed as we wait for more of the same in the weeks to come.

ARAB PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Another Israeli atrocity

ISRAEL'S war minister Yitzhak Rabin has given his consent to a plan to tap a major new water supply in the occupied West Bank. This water is badly needed for drinking and agricultural purposes in the Arab areas. We realise that Israel maintains its occupation of the whole of Palestinian land and continues its repressive measures against its people. This is in fact the major concern of the Arab Nation at the moment. But focusing our attention on this Israeli step is in fact our aim of exposing Israel's far reaching objective of starving the Arab population by denying them the means for growing food and for drinking. This Israeli move is in reality a new method for turning Arab lands into arid regions and making it difficult for the Arabs to continue living in their occupied territory and so forcing them to leave. This repressive act is to be added to the long list of Israel's atrocities against the Arabs and which include among other things demolition of Arab homes, detention of Arab citizens without trial, building settlements on confiscated Arab land and depriving the Palestinians of their human rights. Israel, as known to all, holds on to all the territories it occupied since 1948 and has no intention of giving up land or reaching a peaceful settlement with the Arab countries. There is no legitimate move and inhuman practices committed by the Jewish state clearly conform to Zionism's long-term objectives and designs.

Al Dustour: Israel denies Arabs their water

FOLLOWING 20 years of occupation rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during which continued repressive measures have been committed against the Arab population, Israel is now turning its attention to new techniques designed to force the Arab inhabitants to abandon their homeland. The Israeli authorities are now planning to steal the artesian waters of the West Bank in an area near Bethlehem, totally in disregard of all international principles and laws. The stealing of water from that Arab area is designed to deprive the Arabs from an essential means of sustenance and existence. The water is to be drawn to Israeli occupied territories where Jewish settlements have been set up, a step in line with the long term objectives of world Zionism. What is more disgusting is the fact that the plan is being implemented through an American firm employing United States technology, at a time when the U.S. administration claims that it knows nothing about the subject and reaffirms that it is concerned with and will work towards improving the living conditions of the Arab population under Israeli rule. Instead of exercising a positive and even-handed policy in the Middle East, and instead of creating an atmosphere conducive to peace, the United States turns a blind eye to Israel's atrocities and violations of human rights.

Sawt Al Shaab: Ending Gulf war

A draft resolution submitted to the U.N. Security Council on the Gulf war could present the world community with a golden chance for ending the eleven-year-old conflict between Iran and Iraq. This resolution calls for the withdrawal of all forces to international boundaries and an immediate cessation of hostilities. If this resolution is passed the Iranian authorities will find themselves forced to abide by the international call for peace despite a declared intention of pursuing the war which gained them nothing. The Iranians who have been dealt severe blows in the battle ground and who have tasted one defeat after another had lately been trying to involve Kuwait in the conflict and widening the circle of hostilities with the result of drawing superpowers into the Gulf zone. The Security Council's resolution would also help curb Iran's terrorist activities, assassinations and other crimes committed abroad against opponents of the Islamic rule. The latest Iranian action in this respect is now being practised in France in the form of besieging the French embassy in Tehran. This action is aimed at mobilising the Iranian people to pursue a policy against the world community in general and the Arab world in particular.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Bank of Palestine suffers under Israeli occupation

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

MAIL carried to us the annual report and financial statements of the Bank of Palestine for 1986. The Bank of Palestine is an all Arab Bank operating in Gaza under Israeli occupation and within the rules, regulations, and conditions imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities. The bank was established to provide banking services, badly needed by the embattled population of the Gaza Strip.

However, the audited financial statements indicate that the bank had a near impossible mission as evidenced by the figures displayed in the balance sheet and profit and loss account:

— After several years of operation, the total assets of the bank did not exceed \$7.3 million, a negligible amount in a region of 550,000 citizens deprived from any banking facilities.

— Deposits together with all other credit accounts were just below \$5.8 million an indication of the failure of the bank to attract a substantial portion of the domestic savings.

— Total loans and advances extended by the bank as of December 31, 1986 was only \$2.8 million, an amount hardly sufficient to light a candle in the overall darkness of military occupation.

— The bank held almost half of its total assets in the form of

liquid cash or deposits with other banks. The bank was apparently unable to invest these funds in any profitable way. It is feared that the bulk of this idle liquidity was kept with Israeli banks. In that case the Israeli banks would be in possession of a larger share of the available funds than the total borrowers from Gaza itself, and the bank would be falling in the trap of having to deal with the enemy.

— The bank was able to make money in 1985, albeit a token amount of \$35,000. However, the bank returned to losses in 1986 to the tune of \$220,000, around 15 per cent of its paid up capital.

In summary, the Arab bank, "Bank of Palestine Ltd," was not able to provide the needed services it was intended to provide, neither to its shareholders nor to the business sector and the community at large.

The Israeli occupation, more than any foreign occupation, has been careful to ensure that any Arab effort to improve the quality of life of Arabs under military occupation should fail, and that the only way for Arabs was still is: Out.

The bank's board of directors' report included an unreserved attack on Arab states, especially on the Economic and Social Arab Council that convened in Amman in 1986 and was attended by

Arab ministers of finance and agriculture, together with the secretary general of the Arab League, to discuss Arab food security. The council was described in the bank's report as a body that no one felt existed, and its deliberations were labled as "non-sense arguments about the miserable economic situation of the Arab states resulting from misguided financial policies which made the Arabs the ridicule of the world," the report said.

This "daring" attack reminds us of the heated debate between an American and a Soviet who were boasting about the freedom of expression in their respective countries. The American bragged that he can stand in the courtyard of the White House and say openly that the U.S. president was a traitor and that no authority would prosecute him for that. The Soviet, equally proud, said that he too could stand in the heart of the Red Square, right opposite the Kremlin and say in loud voice that the U.S. president was a traitor, without the slightest fear.

Well, we in turn say that the Israeli occupation is bad and tyrannical, a statement which the Bank of Palestine board of directors' report did not, or could not say in plain words, but the financial statements of the bank were more revealing and condemning.

Palestinian villagers fight for their fathers' homeland

By Adam Tanner
Reuters

BIRAM — Riad Gantous often brings his two children to visit his parents' home in Biram, even though it now lies in rubble, like all the houses of this former Christian Arab village near the Lebanese border.

Tall weeds grow among the old stones of the Riad family house. Pine trees surrounded the area, and other than snakes, there are few signs of life among the ruins. Israel forcibly evicted Biram's residents on "security" grounds during the 1948 war, promising them they would be able to return within days.

In 1952, the government demolished the village houses, leaving only the churches and two buildings standing, although the supreme court ruled that year that the residents had a right to

return to their homes.

Almost four decades later, the Israeli authorities are finally considering allowing the villagers to go back.

Israeli Arabs are demanding that the state belatedly rectify what they say was a cruel injustice.

But some Israeli Jews fear that allowing the Arabs to return to Biram would create a dangerous precedent and trigger a spate of demands to restore lands taken from displaced Arabs in 1948.

Despite the passage of time, Biram's former residents and their children remain emotionally tied to their village.

"Our fathers left homes and land here, and the Israeli government took this from us," says Gantous, a member of Al Awda (the return), a group campaigning for the restoration of the village. "They must return the homes and land to the people."

Like many fighting for their village, the 35-year-old Gantous has never lived in Biram, but that does not lessen his desire to reside there. "My ancestors died here. My family from the beginning was here, from more than 1,000 years ago," he said. "I too want to die in Biram."

Moshe Arens, the minister in charge of Arab affairs, recently submitted a plan to rebuild Biram and Ikrit, a similar village 20 km away.

Arens proposed partially rebuilding the villages on their former sites, but as some of the land is now farmed by Jewish settlements, villagers would be compensated with additional land nearby.

The proposal has met strong opposition from the right-wing Tzohar Party, and even Arens' own Likud Bloc is not united behind it.

Commentator Yoel Marcus

summed up the misgivings among Israelis when he wrote in the daily Haaretz: "By virtue of recognising their right to return to their village... we will find ourselves admitting to our sins and crimes, and not returning their fields will look like daylight robbery."

There are plenty of Arabs in Israel with claims, and not one of them is personally guilty of having fled or been expelled. The moment we admit we erred, and recognise the residents' right to return to their former place of residence, we will perhaps not thereby have created a legal precedent — though this too is uncertain — but we will certainly have created a political precedent," he said.

Marcus claimed that the Arabs committed the first injustices against the Jews in Palestine, and said he did not feel any sense of guilt toward the villagers of

Biram and Ikrit.

"Let us not create with our own hands a precedent to be used against us," he wrote.

Residents of Biram and Ikrit argue that their problem is unique because they did not oppose Israel in the 1948 war and were promised that they could soon return.

The Arens' plan does have its supporters. A recent Jerusalem Post editorial wrote that: "Even the rendering of partial justice would constitute an overdue repayment of a debt of honour to Palestinians whose only fault was their loyalty to Jewish friends at a time of great peril."

The villagers are wary of trusting the latest moves to restore them to their ancestral homes.

Many Israeli politicians, including former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, have advocated the return of the two villages for decades, but nothing has

been done.

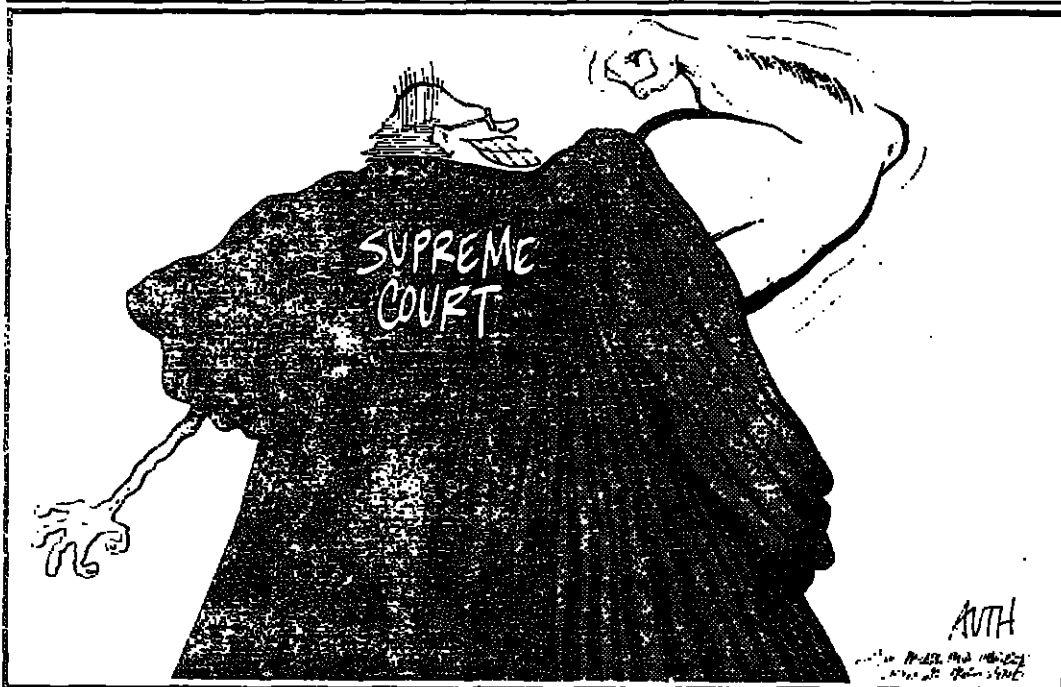
"They play on the issue because they need the Arab votes," Gantous' brother Kamal, another member of Al Awda, says. The 700,000 Arabs form some 15 per cent of the Israeli electorate.

Many former Biram residents now live prosperously in cities across Israel, but Kamal maintains: "You cannot find anyone that will not return."

The former residents of Biram and their descendants now number about 2,000.

Members of Al Awda meet weekly to discuss political strategy, and three days a year they camp in Biram with the government's permission to work on small repairs.

In July, their children will spend a week there so that Biram's next generation will learn the history and culture of their village.



Reagan's choice of Bork may alter U.S. Supreme Court direction

By James Vicini
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's choice of Judge Robert Bork for the Supreme Court may dramatically alter the high court's direction by creating a conservative majority sympathetic to Reagan's social policies.

Legal experts agree the nomination of Bork, a staunchly conservative appeals court judge, as the 104th justice in U.S. history represents Reagan's best opportunity to move the court to the right and leave behind a judicial legacy.

If confirmed by the Democratic-controlled Senate, Bork would replace the retiring Lewis Powell, a moderate who often cast the decisive vote when the nine-member court was deadlocked between liberal and conservative factions.

"The retirement of Justice Powell is what the Reagan administration needs to turn history around and secure its social policy agenda," University of Virginia Professor David O'Brien said.

The administration so far has failed to persuade Congress or the Supreme Court to adopt its social policies favouring school prayer and opposing abortion, school busing for racial balance and affirmative action programmes.

Bork's vote on the Supreme Court could be the difference, resulting in Reagan's social agenda becoming the law of the land, the experts said.

"His appointment will have a major impact on the court's direction," Steven Shapiro of the American Civil Liberties Union said. "The administration sees this as an opportunity to leave behind a significant legacy for a number of years."

Bork, who has long opposed the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalised abortion, could provide the critical fifth vote to restrict sharply or even overturn the decision.

When the Supreme Court reconvenes in October, it will decide cases involving abortions for minors, school prayer, affirmative action, homosexual rights and the death penalty for juveniles.

"The issues are there fore Bork to have a significant immediate impact," Bruce Fein, a conservative legal scholar, said. "Here is the chance for the court to tilt in favour of Ronald Reagan's social and civil rights policies."

Reagan a year ago elevated William Rehnquist, the court's most conservative member, to replace Chief Justice Warren Burger, who retired. He also named conservative judge Antonin Scalia to the resulting vacancy.

But Fein and other experts said the Rehnquist court failed to produce the dramatic shift to the right the Reagan administration had hoped for.

In the court's term that just ended, the liberal bloc led by Justice William Brennan scored important victories, upholding affirmative action for women in the work place and striking down a law that required the teaching of "creation science" along with evolution in public schools.

Confirmation of Bork to the lifetime appointment would give Reagan a much-needed victory at a time when his presidency has been severely damaged by the Iran arms scandal.

But civil rights and pro-abortion groups have already vowed an all-out campaign to defeat the nomination, setting the stage for what may be a long and bitter Senate confirmation battle.

Some experts said it could be as fierce a struggle as President Richard Nixon's unsuccessful attempt to name two conservatives to the high court in 1969-70. Both nominations were defeated in the Senate.

"He (Bork) stands for an extremist view of the constitution and the role of the Supreme Court," said Senator Edward Kennedy, a liberal Democrat

from Massachusetts and a judicial committee member. "No justice would be better than this injustice."

Kennedy charged that Bork's confirmation would mean a return to the days of back-alley abortions, racial segregation in schools and workplaces, rampant police searches and religious observances in the public schools.

If confirmed, Bork would join Rehnquist, Scalia, Byron White and Sandra Day O'Connor, the court's first woman member and Reagan's only other appointment, as members of the conservative bloc.

Besides Brennan, the liberal faction includes justices Thurgood Marshall, Harry Blackmun and John Paul Stevens.

Among the better known members of the forum is Black Sash, a white women's organisation most

Over wine and hors d'oeuvres they talk of ending apartheid

By Jonathan Sharp
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Over wine and hors d'oeuvres in a genteel suburb of Johannesburg, a group of whites briefed reporters recently how they plan to fight apartheid.

The topic is explosive in a country whose white-led government declares that apartheid segregation is a thing of the past but whose black majority say their every living moment is testimony to its continued vigour.

The language that circulated in the comfortable suburban living-room, punctuated by the popping of corks and the crackle of a wood fire, was hardly revolutionary.

The hosts were representatives of South Africa's white liberals, people who shun extreme solutions to South Africa's ills and occupy a middle-ground between the polarised forces on either side of the black-white divide.

The occasion was a briefing for reporters on a newly-formed organisation called the Five Freedoms Forum, a coalition of civil rights groups which have varied goals but are united in their abhorrence of apartheid.

Launched formally in March, the forum — the five freedoms are freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of speech and association, freedom of conscience and freedom from discrimination — acts as an umbrella for about 10 white anti-apartheid organisations with an estimated total membership of 50,000.

Among the better known members of the forum is Black Sash, a white women's organisation most

recently active last month when its members stood at street corners in Johannesburg with placards condemning the year-long state of emergency granting the government wide powers to curb political unrest.

Also prominent is the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, which has monitored and helped thousands of blacks detained without trial under the emergency.

At first glance the cause of South African liberals does not look promising: They took a beating at a whites-only election in May when the ruling National Party, architect of apartheid, swept back to power and voters swung to the right.

The anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party lost ground and was replaced as the biggest opposition group in parliament by the Conservative Party, which is so right wing it thinks the National Party is hopelessly weak-kneed.

Realistically, what can a pressure group like the Five Freedoms Forum, which has no formal representation in parliament or in other institutions of the country's power structure, hope to achieve?

"We believe that as a coalition we can be a much more effective pressure group than we could as scattered little groups," said forum member David Webster, a lecturer in social anthropology at Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University and a Detainees' Parents Support Committee worker.

The forum has forged links with the two leading black anti-apartheid organisations, the United Democratic Front (UDF)

which claims a membership of three million, and the 700,000-strong Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Reaction from black activists is mixed. The UDF, the largest legal anti-apartheid group, accepts that white liberals do have a role in their campaign but the Azanian People's Organisation, a left-leaning black consciousness movement, rejects any white help.

But the main focus of the forum's activities is not on the black majority but on the country's five million whites, particularly those debating whether to leave the country and its problems behind them.

In 1986 South Africa lost an average of three professional people a day, the forum says, a horrendous haemorrhage for a country desperately short of expertise.

"Whites opposed to apartheid are floundering in the wake of those (May) election results and we hope to throw those whites a lifeline and welcome them on board a new structure for peace, justice and a common brotherhood of all South Africans," a forum statement says.

The forum has already discovered that it is not welcomed by the government. President P.W. Botha described the group as a "dangerous coalition" even before it was launched.

Several right-wing politicians have branded it as a cover for the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla group, the main black nationalist movement sworn to topple Pretoria.

"It's really quite flattering," said Webster. "We didn't realise we rated so highly on their black list."

U.S. exaggerates Soviet role in the Gulf

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. plan for protecting Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf is based heavily on curbing Soviet influence in the region, but critics say the Soviet role has been exaggerated by the Reagan administration.

"Limiting Soviet influence was obviously the pivotal consideration in the administration's decision to reflag and protect Kuwaiti tankers," chairman Sam Nunn of the Senate Armed Services Committee said in an analysis of the scheme.

But the Georgia Democrat, an authority on superpower strategic affairs, added: "The administration has overstated Soviet opportunities to expand their influence in the region if Moscow becomes more heavily involved in protecting Kuwaiti shipping."

President Reagan on June 30 declared he will force ahead and protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers with U.S. naval forces this month despite grave fears in Congress that the United States could be dragged into the six-year-old Iran-

Iraq war swirling around the Gulf, the industrial world's main oil artery.

The stakes rose dramatically when an Iraqi fighter, in what was later turned out to be an accident, blasted the patrolling U.S. frigate Stark with a missile on May 17, killing 37 sailors.

As criticism of his policy mushroomed, Reagan and senior aides argued Washington's failure to honour Kuwait's request for help would create a vacuum that Moscow would fill.

The Soviet Union has agreed to lease three tankers to Kuwait, which backs Iraq.

"In a word, if we don't do the job, the Soviets will," Reagan asserted in a nationally broadcast speech on June 15. "And that will jeopardise our own national security and that of our allies."

This point was underscored on June 30 by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who said on television: "... if we don't do this we can... have a terrorist-led government such as Iran dictating the terms under which shipping will move, or we can turn the Gulf into a Soviet lake."

Reagan, who once called the Soviet Union an "evil empire," has often cited Communist expansion as a rationale for foreign policies that rely on the assertion of military power. Many critics say he is doing it again in the Gulf.

The Soviet Union has been increasingly active in the Middle East.

Its proposal for an international peace conference is being pursued as viable by Israel, Jordan and the United States, which once wanted to keep Moscow out of the peace process but now says it could play a constructive role.

Moscow is the main arms supplier to Iraq. It has recently established diplomatic relations with Oman and the United Arab Emirates and has made inroads with other Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia, according to U.S. analysts of the region.

Nevertheless, Judith Kipper, a Middle East expert with the private Brookings Institution, said: "The Soviet presence (in the Gulf) is so minimal that it's not a threat to anybody."

Moreover, she told Reuters: "It's not up to the United States to keep them out or let them in. They come in when it's in their interest."

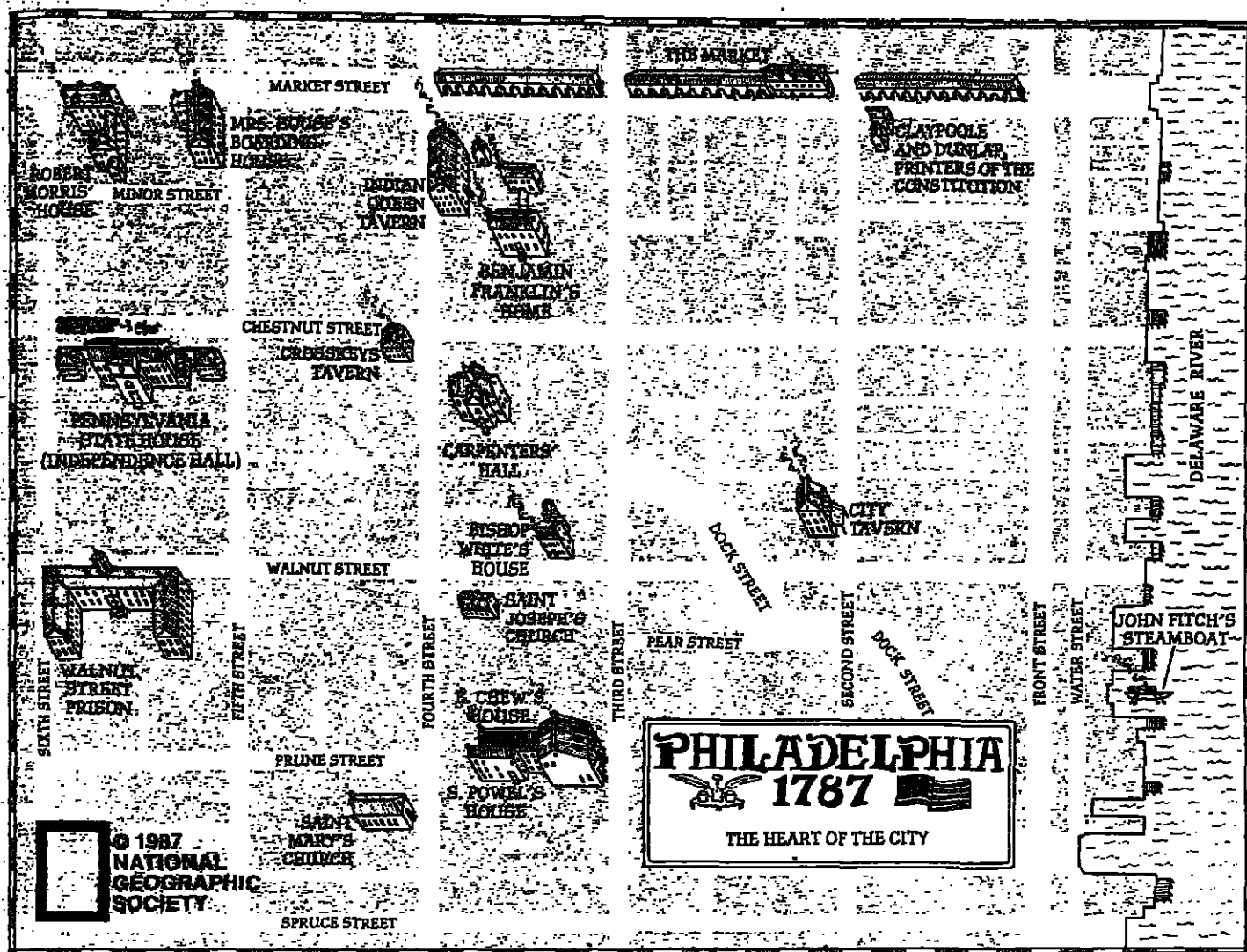
She said the striking development is not that the Soviet Union, as a superpower, would become involved in the Gulf and the Middle East.

Rather, it is that the United States has squandered its credibility and influence in the region for the past six years through the covert sale of arms to Iran — which has created a crisis for Reagan's presidency — and through its passivity toward the peace process.

Now, with the Kuwait tanker protection plan "we're playing a clumsy game of catch up," she said.

Senator Nunn, in the analysis circulated to Senate Democrats, said that although Kuwait got the Soviet Union involved in the tanker scheme, "It is not in the long-term interest of Kuwait or other Arab Gulf states for the Soviets to establish a prominent and permanent presence."

هكذا من الزمان



SOURCE: MIRACLE AT PHILADELPHIA BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION; RESEARCH: ANNA COXE TOOGOOD; ART: BOB TERPIL

U.S. constitutional convention delegates found Philadelphia booming and bustling

By Boris Weintraub
National Geographic

PHILADELPHIA — As if George Washington didn't have enough on his mind.

Here he was, about to be dragged back into public life and away from his wife, Martha, and his beloved Mount Vernon to serve as a Virginia delegate to the convention that would have the task of revising the Articles of Confederation so that the young United States of America could have a better system of government.

And, as he prepared to put his farm in order, here came a letter, dated "4th April 1777," from Edward Moynston, owner of Philadelphia's City Tavern.

"As the Convention of the States is expected to meet in this City in the next Month," Moynston wrote, "I make bold to request your influence with such Gentlemen of your acquaintance as may want Accommodations."

Lodging for war hero

Washington declined the hint. He planned to stay at Mary House's "gentle boarding house" at Fifth and Market Streets. But then he accepted an invitation from his friend and fellow delegate Robert Morris to stay with him and his wife a block away.

Some delegates did stay at the City Tavern, though Washington's fellow Virginian, George Mason, lodged at the Indian Queen, where rates were lower.

As the Americans prepare to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Constitution, adopted by that "Convention of the States," it is easy to think of Washington, Morris, Mason, and their fellow Founding Fathers as statues on pedestals. But the 55 delegates from 12 states — Rhode Island sent none — were vibrant human beings who ate, drank, worried about money, and walked around a thriving city of 40,000.

Not quite a century old, Philadelphia was a logical choice for the convention, as it had been

for the two Continental Congresses. The delegates convened in the Pennsylvania State House, in the same room in which the Second Continental Congress had met to declare independence in 1776.

Despite hot, humid and "close" weather that often rendered the delegates miserable from May to September, Philadelphia was generally a civilized place. The City and the Indian Queen were only two of more than a hundred taverns, a designation that meant places to meet or do business as well as inns where food and drink were served and guests and their horses lodged.

Oh, there were some unpleasant aspects. For one thing, the sound of carriages passing the State House caused numerous distractions. In June, the city ordered gravel laid over the cobblestones on Chestnut Street to dull the sound.

Prisoners in streets

And there was the prisoner problem. Convicted criminals were put at hard labour, and gangs of "wheelbarrowmen" were often seen in the streets. They frequently fought in public, or obtained liquor and got drunk before being returned to jail. But there was much for the delegates to do in the hours other than from 10 or 11 a.m. to 3 or 4 p.m., when they met in secret. They went to the theatre, sat for portraits, and shopped on Market Street. Washington bought venetian blinds and a weather vane for Mount Vernon.

And plenty of private business was transacted. John Fitch, a silversmith and watchmaker, had developed a steamboat and enlisted Delaware delegate John Dickinson as his lobbyist. Fitch hoped to obtain support from other delegates, so he demonstrated his boat up and down the Delaware River off Front Street. It made little impression, going no faster than 3 miles an hour and looking like "a long-legged watchdog."

Another delegate, William

Blount of North Carolina, visited Robert Morris' nearby ironworks and wrote home: "It has appeared to me that this business of nail-making is a business better calculated than any other for the employment of Negroes."

Even the more famous tended to business. James Madison wrote a letter noting the price of good tobacco in Philadelphia, and submitted a bill for attending sessions of Congress in New York. Washington went fishing and, on country excursions, studied new crops and new means of fertilising them.

Travel could be difficult. Dr. William S. Johnson of Connecticut tried to return to Philadelphia from Burlington, N.J., by boat. He failed to obtain passage the first day, and left in the rain at 9 a.m. the next day. The boat ran aground on an island near Philadelphia. He finally reached his room at the City Tavern after 7 p.m.

Some got homesick

David A. Kimball, a National Park Service historian, says many delegates missed people they loved, and wrote poignant letters. For example, Elbridge Gerry of

Massachusetts had a young wife and a baby who initially stayed with him. But he sent them home in midsummer to escape the city's "foul airs," and wrote every second or third day.

"How is my dearest girl, her little pet, and family friends?" Gerry wrote on Aug. 9. "An answer to such questions as these is more interesting to me than all the delusive prospects of pleasure or happiness from other quarters."

Most of the buildings that the delegates saw during their summer in Philadelphia are gone now. Notable exceptions are the State House, now Independence Hall; nearby Carpenter's Hall (home to the First Continental Congress); and several churches.

Edward Moynston's City Tavern was demolished in 1834, but the Park Service reconstructed it in 1975. Visitors can eat there and imagine what it was like on Sept. 17, 1777, the day the Constitution was signed and the convention's business ended.

That evening, Washington noted in his diary, the delegates "adjourned to the City Tavern, dined together, and took a cordial leave of each other."



George Washington presides at the Constitutional Convention on May 25, 1787. Fifty-five delegates from 12 states, all except Rhode Island, came to Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation, the ineffective charter of the new nation, and ended up drafting an entirely new document. They found Philadelphia a thriving city, with taverns and rooming houses, lecture halls, scientists, craftsmen, and businessmen.

Houses of cardboard could provide cheap shelter

By Michael Conlon
Reuters

CHICAGO — The cardboard carton, playhouse for children and makeshift shelter for many of the world's poor, may have a future as a cheap form of temporary housing.

Stone Container Corp. of Chicago has started manufacturing modular corrugated paper buildings, using a wax-impregnated cardboard. The firm says they can be erected in minutes, painted and made to withstand the elements for five years or more.

More than two dozen such structures — ranging from small single-family homes to an eight-room hospital annex — are already in use.

Children in Lázaro Cardenas, a Mexican city near the centre of the 1985 earthquake, attend classes in two of the company's cardboard schools which replaced the wood and corrugated metal structures destroyed by the quake. Some Mexico City quake victims, left homeless by the disaster, now live in Stone's cardboard houses.

In California, some of the structures are being used for farm worker shelters and warehousing.

Two 13 metre by 20 metre cardboard buildings and a smaller seven by 10 metre one with a shower and bath are in use in Ghana, purchased from Stone by world vision, a Los Angeles based charity. They are part of a moveable base camp for a water well drilling operation.

Allen Casady, director of marketing and sales for Stone, told Reuters the structures were developed "in a deliberate search for a solution to worldwide housing problems."

As far back as a decade ago, he said, architect Buckminster Fuller had suggested cardboard be used in a huge lightweight geodesic dome as a possible inexpensive means of housing.

Casady said his company believes the structures have a future beyond disaster assistance. "Our original plan was that we would have disaster assistance units available for any part of the world. But there hasn't been a cry for that," he said.

"We see more for it if it can be accepted by Third World governments as a means of relief housing," he said.

"One of our problems is the perception of its being cardboard. I was in El Salvador last spring

not long after the earthquake there, trying to convince President (Jose Napoleon) Duarte that this was a solution," Casady said.

"He was interested but was concerned to have the government sponsor a casa de carton — a house of cardboard — when so many people are already living in shipping crates and boxes. It obviously has a way to go," he said.

The structures themselves are a far cry from cast-off cardboard boxes.

The panels which make up the walls and roofs are accordion folded corrugated cardboard. There is a double row of corrugation — the fluted paper that makes up the inside of carton walls.

"It's twice as thick and twice as strong as a typical grocery box," Casady said. Treatment with water resistant and bonding agents allow it to get wet and dry out repeatedly.

Wooden braces allow anchoring and support. Windows can be cut where needed with a pocket knife, and insulation can be added, he said.

Stone makes three basic structures, which range in price from \$250 to \$6,000.

There is an emergency relief shelter providing about 125 square feet of living space and designed to replace a tent or modular "development unit" that provides a number of smaller rooms and which can be added to as needed and a 160 square foot warehouse.

Stone, who produces container-board, draft paper, corrugated boxes and bags, has about 20,000 employees worldwide.

Its sales in 1982 were in excess of \$2 billion and are expected to approach \$3 billion this year following the acquisition of Southwest Forest Industries, a firm involved with newsprint and paper mills.

"We are just really beginning to feel some acceptance (for the cardboard houses)," Casady said. "We're a long way from calling it acceptable as a money maker. It's still very much an investment."

While most of the structures now in use are in warm climates, Casady said, there is no reason they can't be used in areas with more severe weather. He also said additional coatings such as stucco could extend the life of the buildings to 10 or 15 years.

U.S. administration reaches out to world audiences

By Ruth Sinal
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An American television network that offers its broadcasts for free, carries no commercials and is happy when its programmes are pirated?

The unlikely network is called Worldnet. Paid for by the U.S. government, and is a far-flung effort to present U.S. foreign policy and the American way of life to audiences around the world.

The product is slick, sophisticated and a far cry from what one would expect to see from a government-run information system. Some programmes closely resemble the fast-paced breakfast television shows aired by major television networks in the United States, Britain and other nations. The news stories selected are similar to those carried on U.S. commercial television networks.

"It's not propaganda," claims Worldnet director Alvin Snyder. "We have a charter that says we have to be objective. There's no pressure on us to be anything else," he says.

However, foreign viewers may not always realise they're watching a U.S. government-funded programme.

Worldnet displays its special logo on the backdrop of all the programmes. But not everyone knows what Worldnet is. While some foreign cable operators who carry the network explain that it's a U.S. government operation, others may simply present the producer as "the company America Today", or make no reference to the programmes' origin.

"America Today" is the name

of the morning Worldnet broadcast.

The expanding network, which already reaches an estimated 4 million Europeans as well as audiences in Northern Africa and Latin America, is run by the United States Information Agency and funded and overseen by the Congress. Programmes are in English and Spanish.

Launched in late 1983 as a one-time satellite news conference to explain why the United States led an invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada, Worldnet now broadcasts four hours daily to Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and an hour to Latin America.

By 1990 it plans 12 hours of daily programming, available to the entire world. The programmes are also transmitted to 25,000 hotel rooms in Europe and Israel through closed circuit systems.

The current line-up includes two hours of breakfast-style television, containing news segments, interviews, weather reports, business news, sports and even health and beauty tips.

Another hour-long show includes economic and political debates, travel features, wildlife films and music programmes. The fourth hour is dialogue, a live televised news conference featuring a U.S. official or expert answering questions from European or Latin American journalists sitting in various U.S. embassies.

The range of subjects on dialogue runs the gamut from U.S. foreign policy and trade bills to such subjects as modern dance, toxic waste and the ozone layer of the atmosphere.

A survey of the programme

schedule shows about 20 per cent of dialogue personalities are U.S. government policy-makers. The rest are academics and other specialists.

If we had only politics on all the time, we'd bore everyone stiff and run out of people to put on," says Snyder. One of his producers points out that Europeans are generally sophisticated viewers.

"We can't afford to underestimate our viewers. We have to establish credibility and so we have to show demonstrators booing (President Ronald) Reagan as well as officials defending his views," said the producer, who asked not to be named.

"It's not propaganda. Our officials, like (Secretary of State George) Shultz, take tough questioning from the European journalists."

Cable operators seem more than happy to fill up their schedules with the American programmes. "They're hungry for material, and this is free. We even encourage operators and individuals to pirate our tapes," said the producer.

Worldnet leases space on a European commercial satellite, and stations and individuals are free to pick it up. Some cable operators dub the programmes in Italian and German.

Not only cable systems use Worldnet. In Rome, for example, the U.S. embassy receives the broadcasts by satellite and distributes them for same-day airing on two private Italian networks — Nouva Teleregione and Tele Italia.

Data collected by the two stations in the past year shows the programme has 100,000 viewers in Rome.

The audience is composed mostly of English speakers such as embassy employees and tourists, as well as people learning English.

According to Pietro Angellotto, director of Tele Italia, "both the English-speaking community and Italian viewers consider the programme a prompt news source as well as an interesting cultural programme that illustrates the American way of life."

Worldnet gets many of its teleconference ideas from USIA officials overseas who know what interests journalists and audiences, says Snyder. "You wouldn't believe the things they ask for — superconductivity experts, computerised education specialists, AIDS researchers."

The news style is slightly different from that on network television in the United States. Some issues need explaining for foreign audiences — such as the anomaly of a Democrat-controlled Senate under a Republican president.

Are there other differences? Anchor Dorris McMillon points to two. "I've been asked to say Mr. Reagan instead of just Reagan. That's OK because I think respect should be shown for the president. And we don't say the Iran-Contra scandal. We call it the Iran-Contra affair."

Whether affair or scandal, footage of the congressional hearings into the case which has shaken the Reagan administration is shown almost daily. In March, Worldnet aired a half-hour programme in Spanish to Latin America about the findings of the presidentially appointed Tower Commission which investigated the arms-for-hostage dealings with Iran.

Robert Maxwell jumps the rails

Big changes are ahead in the way that Britain's newspapers are delivered from print works to breakfast table. Raymond Soddy and Kevin Brown report on new moves in distribution.

LONDON — Traditionally, special newspaper trains have travelled through the night from the great London stations as the papers were sorted on board. That era may be reaching the end of the line.

Mr. Rupert Murdoch pushed the British Rail service into loss by taking his four national titles off the rails and on to the roads when he moved production to Wapping last year.

Now, his rival Mr. Robert Maxwell, publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, may have delivered a fatal blow with his decision to deliver his three national titles by road using Newsflow, the National Freight Corporation subsidiary.

It is difficult to see how the rail service can survive in its present form, although nothing will happen immediately because most newspapers remaining with BR have contracts which run to the end of 1989.

Mr. Frank Barlow, chief executive of the Financial Times, said: "I think it is very difficult to see the system going on beyond the existing contracts. It is a great pity because there is no better way of sorting newspapers than at 60-70 mph."

Recently, after a final week of talks, Mr. Maxwell sent a letter to BR thanking it for delivering the Daily Mirror for more than 80 years but adding that from July 1 the Mirror titles would travel by road.

BR lost £8 million (\$13.2 million) from its total of £30 million revenues on newspaper delivery when Mr. Murdoch jumped the rails — although BR is suing for

breach of contract. The Maxwell move will cost BR a further £5 million.

One factor behind the Maxwell decision was his insistence that BR employ Mirror drivers who would have been made redundant had the BR offer to begin picking up newspapers from the publishers' premises been accepted.

BR says it is legally barred from employing such drivers directly.

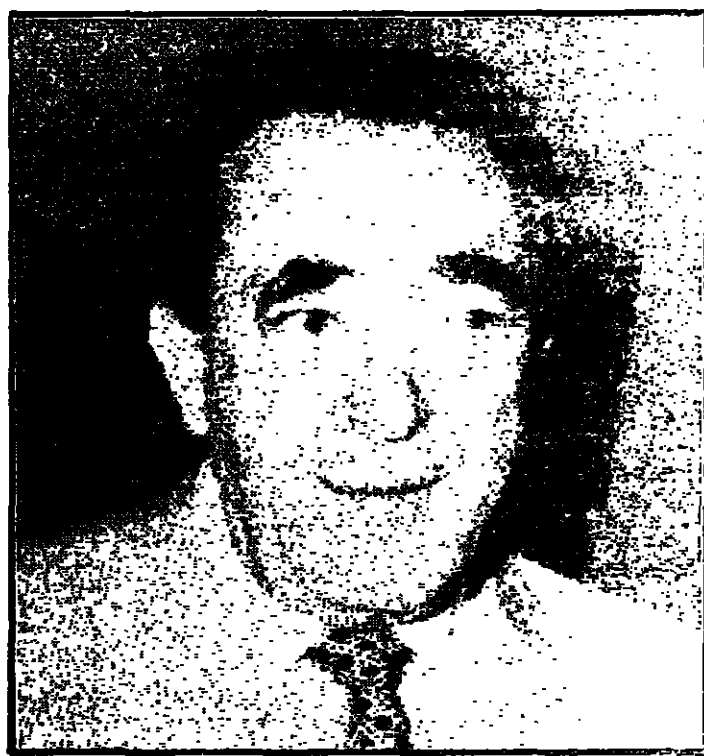
The underlying reasons which tipped the balance towards road delivery for Mr. Maxwell were his plans to print in a number of plants around the country and his desire to create a new network to cut overall distribution costs.

Mr. Patrick Morrissey, managing director of MGN, said: "We needed greater flexibility on both printing sites and printing schedules and we wanted to cut out the double or triple handling which rail involves."

The Maxwell decision has put enormous pressure on BR and Mr. John Fitzgerald, BR's manager for newspapers and magazines, to come up with a new package to hold on to the remaining business.

Mr. Fitzgerald, who says the Mirror business was not lost "on grounds of cost or quality," is already at work trying to put together a new network, probably a mixture of road and rail, which would be viable in the long term. He concedes, however, that it is much easier to run a large or very small network than "a half-way house."

Every national paper from the Daily Telegraph and The Guardian to the Mail and Express is



Robert Maxwell

now reviewing its options and all have quotes from either National Freight or TNT, the company which delivers News International's titles.

Mr. Nick Shott, circulation and publicity director of Express Newspapers said: "I am in favour of a distribution network which is as effective and inexpensive as possible and which does ultimately protect sales." But he gave a warning that if everyone now ran off and did their own thing "we might all be worse off."

If the BR system were to collapse entirely, which seems unlikely at least in the short term, W.H. Smith, the retail and

wholesale group, has plans for a new national delivery service using regional truck companies.

But Mr. Rodney Buse, managing director of W.H. Smith's wholesale group, said he expected a flexible hybrid system to emerge which would reflect the new reality that some national newspapers had opted for distributed printing at different sites while others had built high-volume plants in London's docklands.

In such a system, he believes, rail could still have a place "on long-distance runs where time and volume are critical."

— Financial Times feature.

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Navratilova defends Wimbledon crown for record sixth consecutive time

Lendl, Cash in for a decisive clash today

WIMBLEDON, England (Agencies) — Martina Navratilova claimed a place in history and protected her spot at the top of women's tennis with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Steffi Graf for the women's championship at Wimbledon.

The victory gave Navratilova a record sixth consecutive Wimbledon title and eighth overall. It also ended Graf's victory streak at 45 matches.

Title-holder Navratilova won a record-equaling eighth Wimbledon women's singles championship when she took a surprisingly swift 69 minutes to beat 18-year-old West German Steffi Graf.

Graf, the second seed, who beat Navratilova in the French Open last month, had stood poised to depose the 30-year-old American not only as Wimbledon champion but as the world's number one ranked women's player.

In the event, though, the tradi-

tional strengths of Navratilova's game — her powerful serve and fierce volleying — prevailed. Graf managed only one break point on the champion's serve, in the first game of the second set, and although she astonished the crowd with the ferocity of some of her groundstrokes, was never able to take control of the match.

Navratilova, whose triumph earned her a prize of £139,500 (\$198,000), has now won 41 singles matches in a row at Wimbledon, a feat matched only in recent times by Sweden's Björn Borg, who was men's champion from 1976 to 1980.

Graf's most spirited resistance came at the end of the first set

when she saved six set points. Navratilova clinched victory — and her sixth championship in a row — on her second match point with a punishing serve to Graf's forehand which the young German reached but could not quite lift over the net.

Graf never has won Wimbledon and claimed her first Grand Slam tournament victory just last month.

After that victory on clay, Graf said she was not yet ready to win Wimbledon, needing more work on her grass-court game of serve, approach and volley.

But the 18-year-old, seeded second behind Navratilova, is red hot.

Ivan Lendl, number 1 everywhere in the world except on the grass courts of Wimbledon, tries to make the ranking universal Sunday when he faces Australian Pat Cash for the men's cham-

pionship. Lendl, who grew up as a clay court player, has been on a mission to master grass under the coaching of Australian Tony Roche. If he finally conquers Wimbledon, he will deprive Australia of its first title in 15 years.

Cash is his country's first finalist here since 39-year-old Ken Rosewall was defeated by Jimmy Connors in 1974, the first of two Wimbledon crowns for Connors. Cash ended any hopes of a third year with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 wipe out of the American in the semi-finals, following Lendl's more difficult 3-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4 victory over Stefan Edberg.

Lendl has reached the finals in five of the last seven Grand Slam tournaments, winning four of them, two French and two U.S. Opens. He also won the French Open in 1984.

Mtoto eclipses derby winner

SANDOWN, England (AP) — Mtoto, a 6-1 shot ridden by South African jockey Michael Roberts, got up in the last furlong to upset English Derby winner Reference Point and win the 190,000-pound (\$304,000) Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park Saturday.

Reference Point, rated the even-money favourite by the bookmakers and ridden by American jockey Steve Cauthen, tried to outprint the rest of the eight-strong field with a burst from the starting gates but was caught by the four-year-old colt, which won by 3-4 of a length.

Third was last year's runner up, the French-trained mare, Triptych, while Bellotto, which finished third in the Derby, came home fourth.

With three furlongs to go, Reference Point looked a near certain winner as Cauthen held a clear lead. The three-year-old colt outpaced the two pacemakers in the early stages of the 2 kilometre-race and was joined by Mtoto with two furlongs (0.4 kilometre) to go.

Balloonists Branson, Lindstrand go into Guinness book despite near-tragic end

MULL OF KINTYRE, Scotland (AP) — Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand will go into the Guinness Book of Records as the first people to cross the Atlantic by hot-air balloon, even though they crashed off Scotland, a spokesman for the publication said Saturday.

"They are the first to cross — it was a phenomenal feat," said Guinness marketing executive Anna Nicholson.

She said Branson and Lindstrand also broke records for the largest hot-air balloon, the fastest hot-air balloon and the longest distance for a hot-air balloon flight.

It was less clear, however, whether the two British adventurers will meet the stricter standards of the Federation Internationale Aeronautique, which decides aviation records.

Their balloon, Virgin Atlantic Flyer, briefly touched down in Ireland on Friday before bouncing out into the North Channel between Ireland and Scotland where the two were forced to jump from the gondola during an out-of-control touchdown.

Pop-music tycoon Branson and Swedish-born Lindstrand escaped serious injury and spent the night at a hotel in nearby Kilmarnock with their families after hospital examinations.

Nigel Tasker, secretary of the French-based aeronautical federation, said Branson and Lindstrand had "undoubtedly reached Europe."

But he added: "There are rules

that the balloon must remain under control at the point-of landing."

In a BBC Radio interview Saturday, Tasker said the balloonists would have to make an official claim to be accepted by British officials before being considered by the federation, he said.

Miss Nicholson said the two organisations have different ways of monitoring and the federation may require "finer details on the aviation front" for their records. As far as Guinness is concerned, she said, "if everything is monitored to time, down to the last second, and it has touched down, then yes it will make a record."

Quaffing Champagne, the flight's London Control Centre team said Friday that despite the near-disaster at the end of the adventure, the two men had made the first trans-Atlantic crossing by hot-air balloon.

But others, including flight project director Chris Moss and rival British balloonists Don Cameron and Jim Howard, said the circumstances of the ditching just off Mull of Kintyre Peninsula on Scotland's west coast could prevent Branson and Lindstrand from claiming the title.

Branson, resting in hospital immediately after the ordeal, told a news conference: "I'm not sure whether we got the record or not. We did sort of touch down briefly in Ireland, but anyway it's not that important to us any more."

Cameron and Howard called off their own bid to cross the

Atlantic on Saturday in a hot-air balloon after an accident with the propane fuel tanks at their Canadian launch site.

Branson, the 36-year-old head of the Virgin Airlines and recording empire, said he and balloon designer Lindstrand jumped into the sea after running into low clouds over northern Ireland and trying unsuccessfully to put down on a beach.

Branson said he was unhurt, but he said Lindstrand, 38, had suffered from extreme cold during 2½ hours he spent in the sea before rescue.

Their 21-strepy-high balloon, the Virgin Atlantic flyer, ditched in the North Channel between Scotland and Ireland, according to Robin Batchelor, chief of flight operations in London.

The balloonists were picked up by rescue aircraft and taken to hospital in Kilmarnock, 27 kilometres south of Glasgow.

Rupert Saunders, a spokesman at the Virgin Atlantic flyer's London Flight Control Centre, said there was photographic evidence that the balloon touched down in Northern Ireland.

"There are groove marks in a field and at that stage, Per Lindstrand and Richard Branson were on board... the world regulations state you must travel from one land mass to another and that the crew members must be the same when you land as when you took off. On that basis, we are claiming a trans-Atlantic record," he said.

Triple trouble upsets rowing sponsors

HENLEY, England (R) — Henley officials were hot under the collar Friday as soaring temperatures brought triple trouble to the Royal Regatta — one of the highlights of the British social and sporting calendar.

First, panic ensued when a swarm of bees invaded the exclusive steward's enclosure.

Then half a dozen topos beauties basking on a passing launch raised more than a few temperatures among male spectators. Biking also began to replace long flowing dresses as required accessories for some women spectators watching from in front of the boat tents.

Finally, and perhaps most

seriously, music blaring from amplifiers on pleasure launches passing the course prevented crews hearing umpires' instructions.

Henley, renowned for its organisation, soon tackled the problems. The bees were rounded up by an apiarist after stinging a well-meaning but ill-informed University of London oarsman who tried to collect them.

The topos girls emerged unscathed and still unrobed from a chat with river police and Peter Conl, chairman of the Regatta's committee of management, promised legal action unless the jazz bands turned down the music on the launches.

Conl said: "They are bloody selfish and are interfering with the running of the Regatta. I spent four minutes trying to start a race this morning when the crew could not hear me because a band on a passing launch was playing fit to bust."

"It is unfair on crews psyched up waiting for the start. They don't want to be distracted. The people on the launches don't seem to appreciate that while they are enjoying themselves they are ruining other people's pleasure. They just don't give two hoots and the Regatta is lost. The rest of his words were lost — drowned out by a passing launch with a jazz band."

Wife reported charging Hagler with doping, physical abuse

BOSTON, Mass. (R) — The estranged wife of former World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight champion Marvin Hagler was reported to have charged him with cocaine and alcohol abuse, following his upset loss last April to Sugar Ray Leonard.

The Boston Herald, quoting local television station WNEV, said Friday that Hagler's bitter loss to Leonard brought on substance abuse and deep depression.

Hagler's wife, Bertha, is insisting that her husband seek help in fighting his alleged drug abuse before she takes him back, the

station reported.

It added that Mrs. Hagler was granted a protective restraining order last week against her husband after she charged that he had physically harmed her and that she lived "in fear of him."

Hagler's co-manager, Pat Petronelli, said Thursday night that he was "shocked to hear it (allegations of drug abuse). I don't know what's true or what isn't true. I have no way of knowing," the newspaper quoted Petronelli as saying.

Hagler, 32, could not be reached for comment.

Egypt seeks 2nd African soccer title in Nairobi

CAIRO (R) — African soccer champions Egypt go to the All-Africa Games in Nairobi in August hunting for another African title to confirm them as the continent's unofficial football masters.

After winning their first soccer title in 27 years when they captured the African Nations Cup last year in Cairo, the Egyptians are confident of grabbing the soccer crown at the Nairobi games, leading commentators said.

Egypt head for the Kenyan capital with several new players in place of veteran stars. But the youngsters already travel with a

string of good performances this year to their credit.

In late June, they launched their campaign for a place in next year's Olympic soccer tournament by beating Kenya 4-0 in a first-leg first-round qualifier.

They qualified for the All-Africa Games in April by beating Tanzania 10-2 on aggregate, a scoreline which Cairo experts say must make them favourite to win the soccer event.

The Egyptians also put a strong show in Seoul during the President's Cup Competition in June, although they were eliminated by Australia in the semi-finals on a

penalty shootout. Egypt's British coach, Michael Smith, said the Seoul competition was a good warm-up for the African games.

"Egypt now has a better team than last year although the players still lack the finishing touch on how to score," he said in a Cairo newspaper interview.

"The players make good scoring chances but they don't make the best of them," he said. A national military team — in effect, a second-string national eleven — won third place in a military World Cup competition held in Rome early in June. They beat Morocco 1-0 and Belgium 4-1 before losing to winners Italy 0-1.

Smith is expected to select his African squad from both teams. The Egyptian team is dominated by players from National and Zamalek, Cairo's two top club sides.

National is a three-time winner of the African Cup Winners' Cup, while Zamalek has held the African Champions Clubs' Cup for the past two years. Both teams have reached the quarter-finals of this year's championship clubs' competition. Smith introduced changes in

the national team after veterans like Mahmoud Khateeb, 33, and Mustafa Abdou, 34, retired after entertaining crowds in Cairo and other African cities for over 10 years.

Smith said he had to inject new blood, but also kept old experienced warhorses such as goalkeeper and captain Thabet Batal, 32, who underpins a solid midfield and back line.

Soccer commentators lament the lack of talented strikers in the new team to match Khateeb, who could score from any position, even if more than two players were marking him.

Only one of the new strikers heading for Nairobi has proven talents of the same order — Gamal Abdel-Hamid, an expert with his head.

Taher Abu Zeid, one of the few Egyptian strikers known for their powerful shots, may be grounded by a thigh injury that has kept him out of recent international matches, including the Seoul tournament.

But the team looks solid in attack with new young replacements such as Emad Soliman and Mohammed Ramadan, both skilful controllers of the ball with strong shots.

ADVERTISEMENT: NO. 24/87

UNRWA headquarters in Vienna, Austria requires an assistant data processing operations supervisor to supervise DP staff responsible for computer equipment operations, operating systems support and maintenance and user support at the agency's headquarters and in providing guidance to staff responsible for similar functions in the agency's area of operations. Operate and revise operating standards, instructions and procedures concerning the use and control of equipment for data and word-processing.

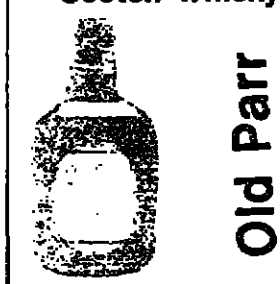
Qualifications: University degree in computer science or business administration plus formal coursework or professional training in data processing. Six years experience of technical data processing experience including 3 years in a production support and/or systems.

Experience: I) Six years of technical data-processing experience including three years in a production support and/or systems programming role. II) Experience in a data processing unit using both large mainframe computers, and distributed mini and micro computers. III) Extensive experience with operating systems on large mainframes and mini/micro computers. IV) Experience in the preparation and updating of both technical and non-technical procedures and in the development of EDP operations standards. V) Experience in the support of non-technical EDP users. Language: Excellent command of written and spoken English. Monthly salary: Austrian schillings 34,208, rising, subject to satisfactory performance, to Austrian schillings 44,488, in 10 annual increments.

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TOM BOY
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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 675571
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Winner of Three Academy Awards
Performances 2.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

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Robins, Rorer agree to merge

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — A.H. Robins Co. agreed Friday to attempt to merge with Rorer Group Inc. for \$2.6 billion, a move that could help the troubled maker of the Dalkon Shield contraceptive survive massive liabilities.

The merger would establish two trusts with a total value of \$1.25 billion to pay Dalkon Shield-related claims.

Robins, which has been mired in bankruptcy proceedings since 1985, had expressed a desire to emerge from its troubles as an independent company. But analysts said its board probably concluded that a merger was the best way to deal with the Virginia-based firm's undetermined liabilities.

In judicial proceedings, about 320,000 claimants have said Robins' intrauterine birth control device caused a number of problems, including sterility, miscarriages and even deaths.

In a letter of intent, the two firms agreed to seek a definitive agreement by the end of the month to merge through a \$725 million stock swap. The deal is subject to approval by the U.S. bankruptcy court in Richmond, which is supervising Robins' reorganization.

Rorer's merger plan would take care of about \$120 million owed by Robins to trade creditors.

Under the deal, Rorer would exchange each Robins share for a newly issued Rorer convertible share with voting rights, that would be valued at \$48. If Rorer's stock rose above \$48, it would issue 0.625 common shares for

each Robins share. On Thursday, Rorer's shares traded at \$46.

A merger between Robins and Rorer would create the sixth-largest over-the-counter drug company in the United States.

Rorer, a Fort Washington, P.A. drug maker best known for its Maalox antacid liquid and tablets, has been interested in Robins for several months. The company, which has embarked on an ambitious growth plan, offered to pay about \$2.25 billion for Robins earlier this year after a similar advance by New York-based American Home Products Corporation fizzled.

Rorer withdrew its first bid after failing to strike an agreement with Robins, but came up with a sweetened offer last month which was endorsed by a shareholder committee of major stockholders who are not members of the Robins family. Among the major stockholders is New York investor Michael Steinhardt, who owns a 6.7 per cent stake.

Analysts said the committee's approval also reflects shareholder disenchantment with Robins' management. President E. Claiborne Robins, who owns a 41 per cent stake, had long opposed a merger, but observers said he may have run out of alternative options.

Robins sold about 3.3 million Dalkon Shields in more than 80 countries between 1971 and 1974, including 2.2 million in the United States, before they were withdrawn from the market. Robins filed for bankruptcy in August 1985 largely to escape a flood of claims against the firm.

Abu Dhabi reports '100 years' of oil reserves

ABU DHABI (AP) — Abu Dhabi's major offshore oil producer celebrated the 25th anniversary of its first petroleum shipment Saturday.

Andre de Bousingen, general manager of Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Co., said oil reserves were sufficient to continue present production levels "for at least the next 100 years."

Mr. De Bousingen refused to provide figures for reserves or production to reporters.

But he said ADMA-OPCO's current capacity was 570,000 barrels a day, 250,000 of which could be produced from Umm Al Shaif and 320,000 from Zakum fields which lie off Abu Dhabi.

"We are producing very much less than our capacity, due to the low quota allotted by OPEC to the United Arab Emirates," he said.

At the recent meeting in Vien-

na of the 13-nation OPEC, the UAE's daily production was fixed at 984,000 barrels per day. Abu Dhabi, the leading oil producer among the seven emirates federated in the UAE, accounts for about 70 per cent of the output.

On the basis of the capacity figure he gave, the company's reserves for a century would stand at seven billion to 10 billion barrels, but the general manager said "we are more optimistic."

However, his technical assistant, Mohammad Shanti, said the company had "no plans" for new exploration or drilling activities over the next five years due to the slump on the world oil market.

He said seven exploratory fields would remain without any development plans for the next 10 years. They were considered as reserves for the company pending a political decision, he added.

In July 1962, the company ex-

ported the first quarter million barrels of oil it had struck. The UAE federation had not yet been born, and Abu Dhabi soon became one of the main Gulf oil producers within OPEC.

Mr. De Bousingen said the company, which struck Abu Dhabi's first barrel of oil, discovered hydrocarbons in seven new fields before it stopped exploration in 1985. Shareholders however had no plans to develop all their finds over the next five years "because they have enough production capacity."

ADMA-OPCO is currently owned by Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., 60 per cent, British Petroleum, 14 1/2 per cent, TOTAL-Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, 13 1/2 per cent, and Japan Oil Development Co., 12 per cent.

Abu Dhabi saw its revenues slashed by a third last year following the fall of oil prices.

Tanzania apologises to Arabs for difficulty in repaying debts

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzania has apologised to its Arab creditors for failing to repay development loans on time, the official news agency Shihata said Saturday.

"We really feel embarrassed to fail to honour our debts within the agreed periods," the agency quoted Finance Minister Cleopa Msuya as telling a visiting delegation of Arab aid organisations on Friday.

Msuya told representatives from the OPEC Fund, the Kuwait Fund, the Abu Dhabi Fund and the Arab Bank for

Development in Africa that Tanzania's efforts to repay its \$3.2-billion foreign debt were hampered by the poor state of the economy.

Dr. Seyid Abdulla, director-general of the OPEC Fund and head of the Arab mission, said his organisation would continue to exercise flexibility in its dealings with Tanzania.

Speaking at the same meeting, President Ali Hassan Mwinyi called for greater understanding between international financial institutions and the developing world, Mr. Shihata said.

It said Tanzania was expected to submit proposals for debt rescheduling in the near future.

Radio Tanzania said Mr. Mwinyi had received praise from the United States for his efforts to revamp Tanzania's economy with the help of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank loan agreements.

The radio said President Reagan's daughter Maureen had expressed Washington's backing for Mr. Mwinyi's economic recovery programme at a meeting with the Tanzanian leader Friday night.

Saudi Arabia okays 4 high-tech projects

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia has given the go-ahead for four high technology projects in the kingdom, as part of a programme to offset the cost of its massive arms purchases from the United States.

The projects worth over \$250 million have gone to a consortium of five international and Saudi companies.

They are the first approved under a programme set up in 1985 when America's Boeing company signed a \$1.18 billion contract to provide a command and communications system for the Saudi air force's AWACS surveillance planes.

William Nieman, president of the Boeing Industrial Technology Group (BITG) consortium, told the English-language daily Saudi Gazette the projects would be commercially registered in the coming weeks.

Boeing was required to invest 35 per cent of the value of its 1985 "Peace Shield" contract in Saudi-based technology ventures and set up the BITG group to manage the project.

British companies are also expected to enter into a similar "offset" programme following the kingdom's \$8 billion purchase in 1986 of warplanes including 72 Tornados from British Aerospace.

The four projects approved under the BITG consortium had been presented to the Saudi government last December but have only now been approved.

Two projects each capitalised at \$100 million will set up an aircraft repair centre using Boeing technology and a manufacturing centre for advanced electronic systems using Westinghouse Electric Corporation technology.

A further project capitalised at \$40 to \$50 million will repair jet aircraft auxiliary systems using technology of the British Dowty group.

The fourth, an engineering, project will draw on Boeing com-

puter services technology with capital of around \$10 million.

Saudi Arabia has recently taken advantage of defence contracts with foreign companies to secure high-technology investment in the kingdom.

Britain and France have emerged as front-runners in a six-nation race to win a \$4-billion contract to supply eight submarines and build two naval bases.

But diplomatic sources said France could well secure the prestigious contract since it would offer Saudi Arabia the opportunity to demand investment from French companies and set up a further "offset" programme.

The Emirates takes delivery of Airbus

DUBAI (R) — The Dubai-based Emirates airline took delivery Saturday of the first of two \$60 million wide-bodied Airbus passenger planes.

An Emirates spokesman said the airline's own crew flew the A310-300 aircraft from Toulouse, France, and would begin a daily non-stop service to London Gatwick from Monday.

A second A310 ordered from the Airbus Industrie consortium is due to be delivered in early August for use on a proposed twice-weekly service to Istanbul and Frankfurt.

Emirates, launched just over 18 months ago in a challenge to established Middle East carriers, is trying to break into competitive European routes.

The Emirates A310-300S can each carry 181 passengers and 14 tonnes of cargo. They will be maintained by Air France under a two-year agreement signed in Dubai last month.

U.S. president outlines 'economic bill of rights'

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Friday night marked the 211th anniversary of American independence by launching a budget reform initiative designed to curb growth in government spending.

Dubbed an "economic bill of rights," President Reagan's plan would make it harder to raise taxes or start new programmes without specifying where the money was coming from to pay for them.

Senior White House officials who spoke with reporters on condition they not be identified said a major objective of the president's new emphasis on budget reform was to restore momentum to his presidency, damaged by the Iran scandal.

In a speech during a rally on the eve of Independence Day near a memorial to Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president and author of the bill of rights, President Reagan said:

"Those who attain political power must know there are limits beyond which they will not be permitted to go, because beyond that point their intrusion is destructive of the economic freedom of the people."

"The working people of this country need to know their jobs, take-home pay, homes and pensions are not vulnerable to the threat of a grandiose, inefficient and overbearing government, something Jefferson warned us about 200 years ago," the president added.

"It is time to finish the job Jefferson began and to protect our people and their livelihoods

with restrictions on government that will ensure the fundamental economic freedom of the people, the equivalent of an economic bill of rights," he noted.

President Reagan, who took office in 1981 vowing to balance the budget, has never submitted a deficit-free spending plan and has seen the national debt double during his tenure in the White House.

However, he has vowed not to retreat on his demands for more defence spending, further cuts in domestic programmes and no tax hikes.

President Reagan has made deficit spending a political issue, saying Congress is to blame for the red ink. But his speech did not include any of the confrontational rhetoric he has often employed in the past.

He said the centrepiece of his reform initiative was a proposal he has advocated since 1982 — "a long overdue constitutional amendment to require the federal government to do what every family in America must do... live within its means and balance its budget."

He said his long-sought revision should also make it more difficult for Congress to raise taxes.

Another component of President Reagan's plan would require sponsors of new legislation to submit financial impact state-

ments.

"We propose changes that will ensure 'truth in spending' by requiring every new programme to meet this test: If congressional passage of a new programme will require increased spending, it must be paid for at the same time, either with offsetting reductions in other programmes or new revenues."

He said such a requirement "might well temper the desire to over-regulate and over-legislate."

A third facet of President Reagan's plan would be a renewed effort to pare the size of the federal government by selling off some of its holdings and reducing some of its services.

"I will, by executive order, establish a bipartisan commission on privatisation to determine what federal assets and activities can and should be returned to the citizenry," President Reagan said.

The president also renewed his demand for "line item" veto power, which would allow him and his successors to reject objectionable parts of spending bills while preserving parts they favoured.

President Reagan is locked in a budget battle with the Democratic-controlled Congress, which recently approved a trillion-dollar budget for the 1988 financial year. The budget includes \$19.3 billion in unspecified tax hikes, gives the Defence Department less money than President Reagan sought, and would run \$108 billion in the red.

The deficit for the current financial year, which ends on Sept. 30, is expected to be about \$170 billion.

'Israel should help White House'

TEL AVIV — Israel should propose deferring \$100 million from next year's economic aid package to help Washington grapple with its massive deficit problems, former Israeli and American diplomats said at a forum recently.

Mr. Dan Halperin, former Israeli economic attaché to Washington, said that by initiating the deferral for fiscal 1988 'Israel would earn goodwill in Congress and "protect" Israel's position in the allocation process.

Mr. Halperin's plan was promptly endorsed by Mr. Samuel Lewis, former U.S. ambassador to Israel, who was attending the session of a three-day conference on how domestic considerations affect U.S. Middle East policy.

Israel currently receives \$1.2 billion in economic aid and \$1.8 b. in military aid from the U.S., a level 1,000 times higher than it received just 20 years ago.

Even at that, U.S. aid to Israel has been declining in real terms for the past decade, said economist Howard Rosen, a panelist at the forum.

The primary problem confronting both Washington and Israel is the U.S.'s dramatic shift from the world's largest net creditor in

1982 to the world's largest net debtor in 1986. The U.S. debt, now standing at \$260 b. is projected to reach \$1500 b. by the mid-1990s. Even now, the U.S. debt load exceeds that of Argentina, Brazil and Mexico combined.

The U.S. budget deficit amounting to 5 per cent of gross national product, is almost double Israel's in relative terms.

Because of the U.S. economic distress, hard choices have to be made in formulating a budget, including the process of allocating foreign aid, whose levels have diminished from \$20.2 b. in 1985 to \$12.9 b. now.

Mr. Zalman Shoval, another panelist, noted that as the total aid pool has shrunk, the relative share of Israel and Egypt, treated as twins in the budget process, has grown "immensely."

Although high aid levels to Israel are bound to draw increasing scrutiny in Congress, Mr. Halperin urged Israel to resist proposals to put all or part of U.S. aid to Israel within Washington's huge \$300 b. defence budget.

While virtually everyone in Washington nowadays agrees Israel is a "strategic asset," and Israeli aid would be just a ripple in the ocean of the U.S. Defence

Department, Mr. Halperin warned that such a move would be a "dangerous development."

It's far easier to make a case for aid when Israel is pitted against Turkey or Pakistan, or even poverty-stricken Africa, then when it must compete with the "101st division," he said.

On the flip side of the question, Shoval said, Israel faced its own "mountain of debt" as a result of U.S. largesse. Since Washington's plight makes it increasingly difficult to forgive or reschedule interest payments, Mr. Shoval said ultimately Israel may have to trade debt for equity in the Israeli economy.

But U.S. economic difficulties will have a fallout that goes far beyond bilateral concerns, said Mr. Rosen. He questioned whether the U.S. could afford to ante up \$1 b. in aid if Jordan joins the peace process as it did for Egypt. U.S. economic interests also are reflected in military moves to keep its economy functioning. If the oil tap is turned off to those two countries, they will go into recession and "the U.S. is sure to follow," he said — Jerusalem Post.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Arguments are likely if you do anything which might make people believe you are reneging on a promise. This evening is a good time for romance and finding needed answers.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try to remain uninvolved in other people's problems. You may be disappointed by a civic matter you're involved with.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Resolve a matter at work which has been troubling you by discussing it with a superior. Your energy is flowing high.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Forget recreation and focus on matters of importance. You will be wise in handling co-workers this week.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't let a home matter which is beyond your control upset you. You may be wasting your talents.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You will hear something this morning which could make you very angry, but remain calm. Repay social debts.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid arguments which have no basis in fact. Handle important correspondence and make visits this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Getting upset over unfulfilled wishes won't help matters. Get some needed advice from financial experts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A limitation which you've made on yourself must be overcome. Be more forceful in handling personal matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Remaining near a loved one today will put you in better spirits. Show your appreciation for this help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) An important person may be irate this morning, so avoid this individual. Maintain domestic harmony.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Stick to what you know today. Trying something new would not be fruitful. Be cautious when asking for favors.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't rely on your intuition this morning — it's on the blink. Be very cautious while driving or walking today.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she may have a hard time relating to people other than family while young, so teach your child to listen more and talk less. This will help develop an interest in others. Research or investigation would be a very good field for your progeny, so gear the education in that direction.

THE Daily Crossword

by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

1 Powder with snuff

5 Armadillo

10 Home of old id. kings

14 Insect

15 Part

16 Eve's son

17 At full speed old style

18 ter. airline

19 intricate plots

20 Language of India

22 Blamark's sister abbr.

23 State

24 Flammable gas

25 Stately dance

26 Bionic prof.

27 Name god

28 Handle

29 Of the ear

30 Lesser to Reagan

31 Egyptian var.

32 Snout

33 Encourage

34 — Ferber

35 Lariat

36 Equinox

37 Mops the grade

38 Plummy

39 Old old style

40 Music festival

41 Mother of Polk

42 Consumer

43 Old 1/2 c. coin

44 Spirit

45 Make weary

46 Winter hazard

47 Tear speed

48 — of Eden

49 Worship

DOWN

1 Hurricane

2 Name branches

3 Algean port

4 Roman poet

5 Ear. river

6 Mountain ridge

7 North star

8 Author Mino

9 Easing of pain

10 Wagner opera

11 Residence

12 Fortification

13 Smaller

14 Britly

15 Ensnare

16 Parents

17 Object of admiration

18 Muse number

19 Perceive

20 Nuclei

21 Oratory

22 Eliminates

23 — of Claves

24 Meadows

25 "Baked in —"

26 Darymore or

27 Watson

28 Exquisite

29 Shroud

30 Race, port

31 More active

32 Ancient old style

33 Type of car

34 Wading bird

35 — Mitor

36 Tract of open land

37 Margarine

38 Ear. river

39 Be overly fond

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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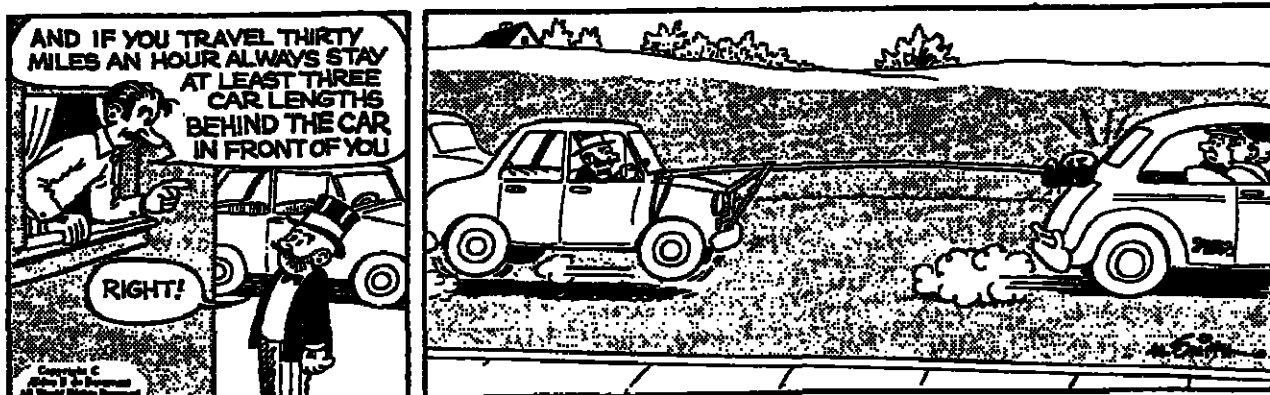
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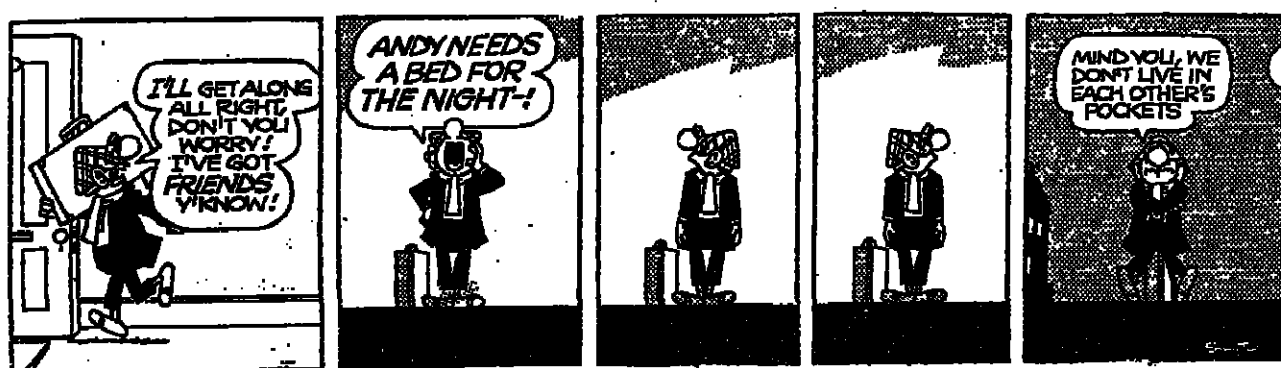
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



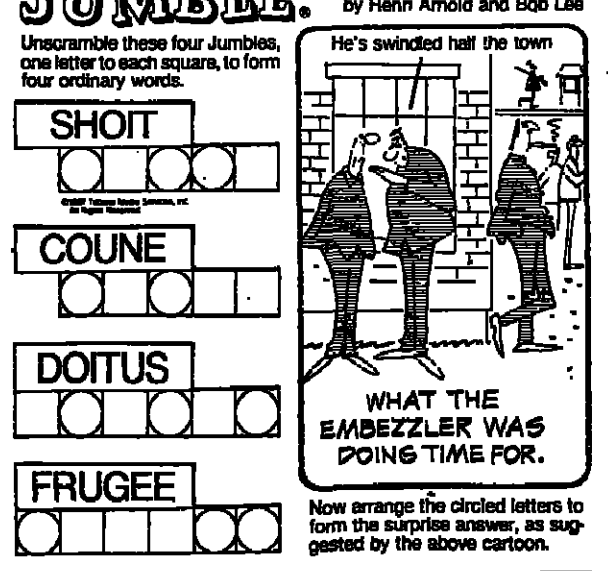
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Answer: "SHOT, COUNE, DOTUS, FRUGEE"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MANGY SILKY ATTAIN DEFACE

Answer: If he's an American and is presented with a difficult problem, he ends up with these words — "I CAN."

